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ADY,

S.

SELL.

PUBLISHERS.



HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF SCHENECTADY,
N. Y.,
FROM 1662 TO 1886.

WITH PORTRAITS, BIOGRAPHIES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

HOWELL.



MUNSELL.

ASSISTED BY
LOCAL WRITERS.

NEW YORK:
W. W. MUNSELL & CO., PUBLISHERS.

1886.

11/11/11
S. L.

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

IN presenting this History of Schenectady County and City to the public, a few words of explanation and acknowledgment are due.

The preparation of so large an amount of historical, biographical and statistical matter as is contained in these pages was undertaken by the publishers in a spirit of enterprise and liberality that required no little financial risk. The Editor was induced to assume the compilation and editing of this work, because he believed there was much important historical and statistical matter that was not in print that ought to be preserved in some compact and convenient form, and because much published and unpublished materials for the work were generously and kindly put at his disposal by the authors and publishers.

Nearly everything of special interest and value connected with ancient Schenectady is already in print, most of which came from the pen of Prof. Jonathan Pearson, the highest authority in this section of the country, to whose nearly half a century of unrequited labor in antiquarian research, the State of New York owes a large debt of gratitude. We desire to make generous acknowledgment to him for the use of his published works and unpublished manuscripts, from which much material has been gleaned for this work.

It has not been convenient to make special mention, in connection with the various articles themselves, of those who have kindly prepared them, in part or whole, therefore, we wish to make the following acknowledgements: To the Rev. Wm. Elliott Griffis, D.D., who wrote the excellent article on Prof. Taylor Lewis; the History of the Dutch Church, Schenectady, is substantially the same as already published from material prepared by Prof. Pearson and Rev. Dr. Griffis; the History of the First Presbyterian Church, is principally a discourse by Rev. T. G. Darling, D. D.; that of St. George's Episcopal Church, by Rev. Wm. Payne, D. D.; that of the Methodist Episcopal Church, by Rev. Samuel McKean and Prof. L. Hoyt; that of the First Baptist Church, by Rev. H. G. Day; that of the Second Reformed Dutch Church, by J. J. Marlett; and the article on Temperance, by Peter Chrisler.

L. B. Proctor, Esq., the accomplished editor of the "New York State Bar," prepared most of the article on The Bench and Bar. For the history of Union College we are indebted to articles in print, by Prof. Pearson, Dr. F. B. Hough and Prof. Wm. Wells. Prof. S. G. Howe furnished valuable information contained in the article relating to the Schools of the City. Mr. Omie F. Vedder has rendered valuable assistance in gathering matter especially relating to the Official History of the County and City, and preparing it for the press. The Editor hereby acknowledges the kindness and courtesy of the above-named individuals, and also expresses thanks to the press; to the county and city officials for assistance in examining their records; to the pastors of nearly all the churches in the county for assistance in preparing their religious history; to the secretaries of the numerous lodges, societies and military organizations for data furnished; and to the many other persons who have rendered more or less assistance during the progress of this work.

It is hardly possible that in a work like this no errors will be found; but it is confidently hoped that if inaccuracies are discovered, the great difficulty of preventing their occurrence will be considered, and that they will be charitably regarded.

Some differences of opinion regarding some old historical facts have been discovered in published works, and have come to us by tradition in a few cases. All information has been duly weighed and preference given to what seemed to be correct.

The following works have been consulted: "The Schenectady Patent," by Prof. Pearson, edited by Major J. W. McMurray to whom we are also indebted for the use of plates from which some of the illustrations have been taken; "Sander's Early History of Schenectady," "History

of the Dutch Church" by Prof. Pearson and Rev. Dr. Griffis; "First Settlers of Schenectady," by Prof. Pearson; "Historical Collections of the State of New York;" "Annals of Albany," published by Joel Munsell; Gazetteers of the State of New York; Spafford's Gazetteer; "Memoirs of Dr. Nott," by Van Santvoord and Taylor Lewis; "Public Service of New York State;" and other minor publications.

The history of some of the towns of the county was prepared by the Rev. E. E. Taylor, who is accredited at the head of each. Many of the illustrations will be familiar to some, but new to most of the subscribers. The portraits with which these pages are embellished, coming as they do from the bureau of the most eminent engravers of the day, will commend themselves to all who see them, not only as admirable likenesses, but as choice works of art.

And now, after two years of labor, conscious that this, in a measure, falls short of what we had proposed at the outset, the Editor may well say, as did valiant Captain John Mason, in his introduction to the Pequot War, "I wish (this task) had fallen into some better hands, that might have performed it to the life. I shall only draw the curtain and open my little casement, that so others, of larger hearts and abilities, may let in a brighter light."

John H. Munsell

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HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF SCHENECTADY,
1662-1885,
EDITED AND COMPILED
BY REV. J. H. MUNSELL.

INTRODUCTION.

EARLY in the seventeenth century, North America, east of the Mississippi, was claimed by right of discovery by four European nations: France, England, Spain and Holland. Although for fifty years there were but few colonists sent over, the whole continent was too small to hold them in peace. Jealousies and bickerings were rife; the French crowded the English, and the English crowded the Dutch, until finally the latter disappeared altogether, and the rivalry between the former continued one hundred years longer. It was as plain then as it is now that rival nations could not exist in the Mississippi Valley.

The French commenced the settlement of Canada in 1603. Their object was two-fold: the conversion of the natives to the Christian faith, and trade. The missionary and the trader, therefore, went forth together visiting every tribe in the valleys of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi, and rendering to each other mutual aid and assistance.

No nation was ever more successful in winning the esteem and respect of the natives. The flexibility of the French character and the indomitable patience of their missionaries were the secrets of their success. The Iroquois, or Five Nations, alone resisted their influence. Their friendship was the salvation of the Province of New York. They claimed all the territory lying between the Hudson and the Maumee rivers, so that the French of Canada could never aim a blow at Albany or Schenectady without striking over the heads of the Five Nations. This celebrated confederacy, the terror of all surrounding tribes, was made up of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas, five allied tribes, who acted as one nation; herein lay their influence.

During the long contest for dominion on this continent between the French and English, they held the balance of power, and were assiduously courted by both parties.

But after 1760, when the French influence ceased, their importance declined; rum and gunpowder had diminished their numbers, and the once powerful Mohawks had almost ceased to exist as a separate tribe.

During the Revolutionary war, large portions of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras favored the colonies, and for safety were transferred to Schenectady; while most of the Onondagas, Cayugas and the Senecas, the more numerous and westerly tribes, adhered to Great Britain and became an awful scourge to the frontier settlements in the Schoharie and Mohawk valleys.

SCHENECTADY.

The ancient township of Schenectady embraced a territory of 128 square miles, a portion of the Mohawk valley sixteen miles long and eight miles wide. The western half is an irregular plateau, elevated 400 or 500 feet above the Mohawk, a spur of the Helderberg, passing north into Saratoga County; the eastern half is a sandy plain, whose general level is 300 or 400 feet lower. The river, running through the middle of this tract in a southeasterly direction, forms the most beautiful and striking natural object in its landscape. At the western boundary, where it enters the town, it flows through a narrow valley, whose sides, though covered with foliage, are too steep for cultivation. From the hill Towereune, the valley widens gradually to *Poversen* and *Maahuyck*, where the hills sink down into a great sand plain. Until the river reaches the City of Schenectady, it is a constant succession of rapids, and its general

course is southeast; here it makes a great bend, and flows with a deep, sluggish current northeastward to the *Aal Plaats*, the eastern boundary of the town. The tributaries of the Mohawk within the town are small and unimportant streams; those at the west end, flowing from the slates, are nearly or quite dry in summer, while those at the opposite end, fed from the sand, are constant spring brooks. But of these streams, few are of sufficient size and constancy now to serve as motive power.

With the exception of a little limestone in the extreme western limits of the town, all the rocks found in place belong to Hudson shales, and consist of alternate layers of blue slate and sandstone, some of which are used for building purposes.

In the west half this geological formation is most abundant, and the soil there is a clayey loam, underlaid with clay or hard pan. The immediate valley of the river, where it breaks through the range of hills, is narrow and composed chiefly of drift of at least two elevations. The highest, called the "stone flats," raised twenty to thirty feet above the water, consists of coarse gravel and boulders, and is chiefly found on the north side of the river. The opposite bank is a lower plain of sand and gravel.

The eastern half of the town has no hills worthy of the name; its general level is perhaps 100 feet above the Mohawk, and the prevailing soil is a fine sand, underlaid with clay, except in the extreme eastern limits, where the clay loam again prevails.

Besides this there is found in the bends and eddies of the river, and upon the low islands, an alluvial deposit which is enriched by the annual floods. This constitutes the widely known "Mohawk Flats," which, though cultivated by the white man for more than 200 years, have lost little of their unsurpassed fertility.

In the early period of the settlement no other land was tilled, hence they were called *the land*, arable land, or *bouwlandt*, all else being denominated woodland, and little valued. In addition to their fertility, these flats presented another advantage to the first settler; they were mainly free from wood and ready for the plough and seed. For ages they had been the native's corn land, whilst the adjacent forests and river furnished him with flesh and fish.

The great sand belt which passes across the town from south to north was once covered with a heavy growth of pine, while the high lands lying north and west of it produced the usual varieties of hard woods. Nothing could have been more

charming to the eye of the first white man traveling up the Mohawk to Ticonderoga (Fort Hunter) than the flats skirting the river banks, clothed in bright green of the Indian corn and other summer crops of the red man. In 1642 the kind hearted Arent Van Curler visited the Indian castles on an errand of mercy, to rescue some captive Frenchmen from the hands of the cruel Mohawks. On his return he wrote to the Patroon (Kilian Van Rensselaer) in Amsterdam, that a "half day's journey from the *Colonie*, on the Mohawk river, there lies the most beautiful land that the eye of man ever beheld." Who that has stood upon *Niskayunaberg* or *Schuylenberg* and looked west and north over the *bouwlandt* and the adjacent islands can wonder at the rapture of the enthusiastic Dutchman, or can fail to discern in his admiration the budding of that idea which twenty years after blossomed into the settlement of which he was the leader.

The site of the village of Schenectady was admirably chosen. No other spot in the neighborhood of the *bouwlandt* offered such facilities for a village. From the eastern end of the "Great Flat" there makes out from the sandy bluff which surrounds it a low, narrow spit, having upon the east, north and west sides the Mohawk River and Sand Kil. The extreme point, only about 1,200 feet wide, was chosen for the site of the future city, a warm, dry spot, easily fortified against an enemy, and sufficiently elevated to be safe from the annual overflow of the Mohawk River. This little flat contains but 175 acres, and it was the site of an earlier Indian village, which tradition says was a former seat or capital of the Mohawks.

FIRST SETTLEMENT OF SCHENECTADY.

If we may believe tradition, Schenectady had already been occupied by the white man many years when Van Curler first visited it in 1642; in fact, it has been claimed to be little, if any, junior to Albany.

That a few fur traders and *bosloopers* early roved among the Mohawks, married and raised families of half-breeds, cannot be denied; indeed, there are respectable families in the valley to this day, whose pedigree may be traced back to these marriages. But that the white man made any permanent settlement on the Mohawk west of Albany, before 1662, there is no good reason for believing, and in view of the opposition of Albany and the *Colonie*, improbable.

June 18, 1661, Arent Van Curler, the leader of the first settlement, made formal application to

Gov. Stuyvesant for permission to settle upon the "Great Flat" lying west of Schenectady.

The reply was as follows :

JUNE 23, 1661.

"The letter of Arent Van Curler being presented and read on the 18th June, containing in substance a request by him and a few other persons for the large plain situated to the back of Fort Orange, toward the interior, for the purpose of cultivation, and consent to purchase the same from the original proprietors and make a settlement there, etc., which, being maturely considered, the Director-General and Council resolved to consent to it; provided that the said lands, on being purchased from the native proprietors, be, as usual, transferred to the Director-General and Council aforesaid, as representatives of the Lords Directory of the Privileged West India Company; and that whatever the petitioners shall pay for the aforesaid lands to the original proprietors shall in due time be returned to them, or be discounted to them against the tenths."

Before the Governor's authority was received at Beverwyck a freshet laid the country for miles around under water. This was followed, a few days after (June 26), by an inundation much greater than the first, which forced the inhabitants to quit their dwellings and fly with their cattle for safety to the woods on the adjoining hills. Incalculable damage was caused by these irruptions. The wheat and other grain were all prostrated, and had to be cut mostly for fodder, affording scarcely seed sufficient for the next spring.

This visitation caused the postponement of the purchase of the "Great Flat" until the ensuing month, when the following deed was obtained from the Indian owners :

Compareerde voor mij Johannes La Montagne ten dienste van de Groet Westendische Compagnie door de G' en Racden Van Nieu Ned^{erland} geadmitteert, Viers Direct^{en} en Commies op de fort^{en} Orangie en Dorp Beverwy, eenige Oversten van t'Maquaes Lant genaempt Cantuquo, Sanareetse, Aiadane Sodackdrasse eigenaers van een seeckere stuck Landts genaempt Op duyts de Groote Vlackten Liggende achter de fort Orangie tusschen de selve en het Maquaes Landt de welcke Verklaeren geceedeert en getransporteert te hebben gelyck sij see-deeren en transporteerden by deesen in reele en Actuelle possessie en sijgondom ten behoeve Van S^r Arent Van Corlaer Ret gemelde stuck Landts of groote Vlackten op Wildts genaemdt Schonowe (is) in syn begrip en circonferentie met syn geboomte en killen voor een seecker getal of Cargosoenen voor welck de transportanton bekennen satisfactie van gehadt te hebben renonceerende voor nu en altyt op alle eygendom en pretensie die sij op het gemelde stuck Landts tot nutoe gehadt hebben, belovende het te bevryden voor all pretensie die andere Wilden soude hebben kunnen. Actum in

de fort^{en} Orangie den 27^e July A, 1661, in presentie Van Marten Mouris en Willem Montagne daertee versocht.

dit ist merck



van CANTUQUO.

THE BEAR.

dit ist merck van
AIADANE.



dit ist
SONAREETSIE.



merck van

In Kennisse van mij
La Montagne
V. D' en Commies
opt fort^{en} Orangie

M. MOU(RIS)

WILLIAM DE LA MONTAGNE.

(Translation.)

Appeared before me Johannes La Montagne, in the service of the Privileged West India Company, by the Director-General and Council of New Netherland admitted vice-director and clerk (*commies*) at Fort Orange and village of Beverwyck, certain sachems of the Mohawk's land named Cantuquo, Sonareetse, Aiadane, Sodachdrasse, owners of a certain piece of land named in Dutch the *Groote Vlackte*, and lying behind Fort Orange, between the same and the Mohawk's lands, who declare that they have granted, transferred, as by these presents they do grant and transfer, in real and actual possession and ownership to the behoof of Mr. Arent Van Corlaer, the said piece of land or Great Flat, by the Indians named Schonowe, in its compass of circumference, with its woods and kils, for a certain number of cargoes, for which the grantors acknowledge they have had satisfaction; renouncing henceforth and forever all ownership and pretensions, which they to said pieces of land heretofore have had, and promising to free it from all pretensions which other Indians may have. Done in Fort Orange the 27th July, anno 1661, in presence of Martin Mouris and Willem Montagne, hereto invited.

This is the mark × of CANTUQUO.

This is the mark × of SONAREETSIE.

This is the mark × of AIADANE.

M. MOU(RIS)

WILLIAM DE LA MONTAGNE.

Acknowledged before me,
La Montagne V. D., and
Clerk at Fort Orange.

Much difficulty was encountered in gaining possession, and in the allotment of the land among the Van Curler's Company. After a delay of two years, Governor Stuyvesant came to an understanding with the settlers, and the several

lots and farms were surveyed and conveyed to them by patents.

The description given in this deed was quite indefinite, and restricted the inhabitants to a comparatively small area.

At this time, and even for many years later, nothing was called *land* except the islands and alluvial flats bordering upon the river. Within ten years after the settlement commenced, all the tillable land was taken up, and it became necessary to look for more farther west. Hence originated another negotiation with the Mohawks, and the following deeds extinguishing the Indian title to the lands along the river to the present westerly limits of the county:

On this 28th May, 1670, Kennighke and Auroensie, both sakemakers of the Maquase, acknowledge to have thankfully received the remainder of the sewant, tubs [of beer] and gunpowder, according to the tenor of the accompanying contract, and free the aforementioned buyers henceforth from all claims, and promise never more from this date to make any new action.

In witness of the truth of which we have subscribed this with our own hands by our accustomed marks, at Schanhechtad, on the date as above, in presence of Robbert Sanders and Jacques Cornelise [Van Slyck], both called as interpreters hereto.

This mark  was set by KENNIGHKE.

This mark  was set by DOROWINGOESE.

This mark  was set by AUROENSIE.

Robert Sanders.

These letters were **ACKES** set by Jacques Cornelise.

In my presence,

J. G. V. MARCKEN,
Schout.

On this 3d day of July, A° 1672, appeared before mee John Garretsen Van Marken, admitted publ: nota: by the worshipful court of Albany and the Inhabitants of Schanhectade, together with a sartain Indian called Dohorywachqua and Crage, being the representative of y^e foure Mohockx Castells, who declared and promised to hold firm and stable, and will cause to be held in full force and virtue all and whatsoever hee shall act or doe in y^e sale of y^e Lands Lying Neare The Towne of Schanhechtade, Within Three Dutch Myles in compasse on boath sides of y^e River Westwards, which endes at Hinguariones [Towareoune] Where the Last Battell Wass between The Mohoakx and the North Indians; Provided That Jaackes Corne-

lisse [Van Slyck] Shall have the first flats or playne, —Except y^e Inhabitants of Schanhechtade will Restore unto said Jaaques Cornelisse Two Rundlets of Brandy and one hundred hand of Wampum, which being paid unto s^d Jaaques The said first Playne to Remain to the Towne.

Whereupon Sander Leenders Gelen, being a former magistrate, and John Van Eps, and Sweer Teunisse [Van Velsen], being y^e present magistrates of y^e s^d Towne, did acknowledge and declare That They Weare Agreed with y^e s^d Indians uppon y^e purchase of y^e Land for y^e Summe or quantity of six hundred hands of good Wheyte Wampum, Six koates of Duffels, thirty barres of Lead and nine bagges of Powder, Which They doe promis unto y^e s^d Indians in two Terms, viz.: The first as soon as The Sachems, or any person by Them authorized, shall Comme out of y^e Country and Produce full Power from Theyre Inhabitants according to Theyre usuall manner, and have thereupon delivered unto ye s^d Indian as a present for The old man in the Mohawk Country a Rundlet of brandy,—To the end all Misunderstanding and Complaints May be Washt of and Removed.

To The trew performance of The premises The s^d parties have hereunto Set theire handes, and Wass Interpreted by Cornelis Viele in The Absence of Jaques Cornelisse,—In Schanhechtade, the date above written. (Signed)

With the Markes of followeth

The Marke  of DOHORIWACHQUA.

The Marke  of CRAGE.

SANDER LEENDERS GELEN,
JOHN VAN EPS,
SWEER TEUNISSE.

Attested by me,

J. G. V. MARCKEN, Notar: publ:

(Copp) This day the 13th of July is pay^d unto the Indians above mentioned in parte of ye purchase foure hundred hands of Wampum, 30 barres of Lead 3 bagges of powder. More for a present, 3 ankers good beere, one koatt of duffels, together with the above mentioned Rundlet of Brandy.

(Copp) Transl:) A° 1672 the 13th day of July, Did the underwritten Indians appeare before us and do declare that They did confirm all and whatsoever the Above written Indians by Name Tohoriowaghque and Crage in the Annexed Instrument have acted, and doo by these presents prommise, with the Last payment to give all further assurances of the s^d Land, and That They and Theyre heires Shall desist from all further Claymes and pretences whatsoever.

In Witness whereof They have hereunto set Theyre handes, In Schanhechtade at the house of Gerritt Bancker and in the presence of Severall particular Indians The Day and Yeare Above written.

Signed with ye following markes.

The Marke  of CANACHQUO.

The Marke  of OCQUARRY.

The Marke  of TOHORIOWACHQUE.

Attested by mee,
(Signed) J. G. V. MARCKE, Nota. pub.

Compared and found to agree with the prinsep:
by mee.

LUDOVICUS COBES, secret.

By virtue of the foregoing conveyance from the Indian proprietors, application was then made to the Governor and Council for a patent, which reasonable petition was denied, the reasons for the refusal being that "leave from ye Governor to buy ye same" had not been first obtained, and that "full information of the premises" was not given.

To add to the difficulties of the case, the Mohawks were inclined to repudiate the sale of their lands, or at least demand a double compensation, as shown in the following minute of a council held by the Mohawks, before the Governor:

The Sachem spake for himself, That one Arent Van Corlaer bought all Schanectade and paid for it, but now there be some who have bought only Grasse, and pretend to the land allso; they say allso that they have bought the first flatt, but that is not so, for it belongs to Acques Cornelisse [Van Slyck], who is to have it, and none else, for he is of their [Mohawk] people, and it is his inheritance;—that there are writings made of a sale of land, but it was never sold, but only the grasse, tho' it may be some drunken fellows may have made some writing without their knowledge,—That they have only bought the Grasse and now are going to live upon it, but they ought to pay for the land as well as the Grasse, and that they had given some to that woman Hillah and another Leah, who have the property of it;—the others have only the Grasse;—That now he has declared this matter and desires notice may be taken of it; and says that shame shall never come upon him, or to be found in a lye.

Answer.

That it is the custom of the Government and amongst Christians when they sell the Grass to sell the land allso; and if they be not paid for the land they shall be, and that the people of Schanectade say that they sent Acques to purchase the land in the name of their Town, and that Acques bought in his own name; and they sent allso one Kemel to purchase it for the Towne, the Indyans told him that Acques had bought and paid some part of the payment, and they desired them to pay Acques the money back and the Towne should have it, which

the Towne did and Acques was satisfied; it is the custom of this place to do justice among ourselves and if Acques have a better title than they for it he shall have it.

Whatever may have been the arguments used on this occasion, whether in the shape of "ankers of good beere," or a "rundlet of brandy"—potent reasons ever with the Indian—opposition ceased from this time, and the Governor and Council were brought to grant the inhabitants the following much-needed patent for the ancient township, afterward City of Schenectady.

PATENT OF 1684.

Thomas Dongan, Lieutenant and Governour and Vice-Admirall under his Royall Highnesse, James, Duke of Yorke, &c., of New Yorke and its Dependencies in America, &c.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Sendeth Greeting, Whereas Tohorywachqua and Crage, Representatives of the four Mohake Castles, have for themselves, and Canachquo, Ocquary, and Tohoriowachque, true and Lawfull Owners of the Land within menconed, have by their certaine Writeing, or Deed of Sale, dated the third day of July Anno Dni 1672, Given and Granted unto Sander Lendⁿ Glenn, John Van Epps, Sweere Teunesse, as being impowered by the Inhabitants of the Towne or Village of Schenectady and Places adjacent, a Certaine Tract or Parcell of Lands, beginning at the Maques River, by the Towne of Schenectade, and from thence Runnes Westerly on both sides up the River to a Certaine Place called by the Indians Canaquarioeny, being Reputed three Dutch Miles or twelve English Miles; and from the said Towne of Schenectade downe the River one Dutch or four English miles to a kill or creeke called the Ael Place, and from the said Maques River into the woods South Towards Albany to the Sandkill one Dutch Mile and as much on the other side of the River North, being one Dutch mile more, there being Excepted in the said Bounds all Corne and Sawmills, that now are or hereafter shall be erected Within the Bounds of the said Towne, that they be lyable to pay a particular Quitt Rent for their Priviledges, besides what is herein sett forth, as shall hereafter be agreed for by the Inhabitants of the said Places, or owners of such Mills, with such Governour, or Governours as shall be Appointed by his Royall Highness; and likewise that noe Timber or Wood be Cutt but within the Bounds aforesaid, the said Excepcon being agreed upon by Myselfe as by a Certaine Writeing bearing date the 7th day of August last Past, doth more perticularly Appeare:

Now know Yee that by virtu of the Comicon and Authority to me Given; by his Royall Highnesse James Duke of Yorke and Albany, Lord Proprietor of this Province, I have hereby Given, Granted, Ratified and Confirmed and by these Presents doe Give, Grant, Ratify and confirme, unto William Teller, Ryert Schermerhorn, Sweer Teunessen, Jan Van Epps and Myndert Wemp on the Behalfe

of the Inhabitants of the Towne of Schenectade and Places Adjacent aforesaid, Dependencies thereon, there Associates, Heires, Successors and Assigns, all and Singular the before recited Tract and Tracts, Parcell and Parcels of Land, Meadow, Ground and Premises with their and every of their Appurtenances, together with all and Singular the Houses, Buildings, Messuages, Tenements, Hereditaments, Dams, Rivers, Runnes, Streames, Ponds, Woods, Quarries, Fishing, Hawking and Fowling, with all Priviledges, Libertyes, and Improvements whatsoever, to the said Lands and Premises belonging, or in any wise appertaining, or accepted, reputed, taken or known as Part, Parcell, or Member thereof, with their and every of their Appurtenances; Provided Alwayes that this shall not anyways make null, or void a former Grant or Pattent, bearing date the 30th of October last past made to Jacques Cornelisse of a Piece of Land lyeing within the Bounds heretofore mentioned of the Towne of Schenectade, (that is to say) the Land Lyeing and being betweene two Creekes, the one called the Stone Creeke to the Eastward, and the other the Plattè Creeke to the westward thereof, the Low Land lyeing along the River side on the South of the Maques River, and then to the north of the Land belonging to the Inhabitants of Schenectade, the same Containing Forty Morgen or Eighty acres of Land, as alsoe Forty Morgen, or Eighty Acres of Woodland or upland more, on the West side of the Plattè Creeke, adjoining to the arrable Land along the River side, which was wholly exempt by the Indian Proprietors, in the sale of this Land, as belonging to Jacques Cornelisse—*To have and to hold* the aforesaid Tract and Tracts, Parcell and Parcels, of Land and Premises, with their and every of their Appurtenances, unto the said William Teller, Ryert Schermerhorne, Sweer Teunessen, Jan Van Epps and Myndart Wemp on the behalfe of the Inhabitants of the Towne of Schenectade and their Associates, their Heires, Successors and Assigns, unto the propper use and behoofe of the said William Teller, Ryert Schermerhorne, Sweer Teunessen, Jan Van Eps and Myndart Wemp, their Heires, Successors, and Assigns forever, to be holden of his Royall Highnesse, his Heires and Assigns in ffree and Comon Soccage, According to the tenure of East Greenwich, in the County of Kent, in his Ma^{ties} Kingdome of England, Yielding and Paying therefor, Yearly and every Yeare, as a Quitt rent, for his Royall Highnesse use, unto such officer or Officers as shall beappointed to receive the same att Albany forty Bushels of Good Winter Wheat, on or before the twenty-fifth day of March.

Given under my Hand and Sealed with the Seale of the Province, at ffort James in New York, the first day of November Anno Dni 1684, and in the thirty-six Yeare of his ma^{ties} Raigne.

THO. DONGAN.

The importance of this grant will appear from the fact that it is the source of all legal titles to lands embraced within 128 square miles of territory given subsequently to the first day of November, 1684.

The five trustees therein named, or their survivors and successors lawfully appointed, thereafter became the grantees of all the public or common lands of the town. Previous to this date all lawful conveyances were in the first instance made by the Governor and Council.

Of the five original trustees, Myndert Wemp, Jan Van Eps, and Sweer Teunise Van Velsen were killed February 9, 1694, leaving only Reyer Schermerhorn and Willem Teller, survivors. The latter, then an aged man residing in Albany, took but little active interest in the management of the patent. In 1692 he removed to New York, where he died in 1700, from which time until the confirmatory patent of 1714 Reyer Schermerhorn was sole trustee.

By the destruction of the village in 1690 and subsequent wars with the French and their Indian allies, the inhabitants of Schenectady had lost all but their lands; in consequence of which Schermerhorn petitioned the Governor in 1698 for an abatement of the quit rent due—forty bushels of wheat yearly—according to the patent of 1684, but his request was not granted.

Making due allowance for water, there were about 80,000 acres of land in the patent of Schenectady—all under the charge and management of one trustee, save the few farms which had been heretofore granted. This one-man power was distasteful to the people, and it was urged against Schermerhorn that he disposed of the lands belonging to the village, without rendering any account of the same; they therefore petitioned for an enlargement of their privileges by a new charter which should give them power of choosing five trustees to hold office three years, who should account to their successors for the management of their trust.

As it had been charged that the first patent granted the lands to the patentees therein named, and to their *heirs, successors and assigns*, the second patent, given February 17, 1703, in response to their petition (after reciting the Dongan patent), conveyed the lands therein mentioned to Colonel Pieter Schuyler, John Sanderse Glenn, Adam Vrooman and John Wemp, jointly or severally to be trustees for managing the trust and estate aforesaid, together with the said Ryer Schermerhorn or by themselves. Schermerhorn paid no regard to the new charter, nor to his fellow trustees, but still continued to act as sole "trustee for the town in receiving the rents, issues and profits thereof, and in prosecuting suits of law in his own name only, without giving any account thereof."

All this too in spite of suspension from his office by the Governor. The secret of this stubborn persistence in the duties of his trusteeship was doubtless the fact that the first patent of 1684 was still binding, notwithstanding the granting of a second, and also to the further fact that in Schermerhorn, as the sole survivor of the trustees therein mentioned, was vested all the authority and power originally granted to said five trustees.

The fee of the land was in him, his "heirs, successors and assigns," and could only be alienated by death or release in due form. In consequence thereof, Colonel Peter Schuyler and Johannes Glen, two of the new trustees, petitioned the Governor for an amended charter, and were followed by the citizens asking for a *yearly* election of trustees and a more strict accountability to the people; whereupon the Governor granted their request in the charter of April 16, 1705, from which, after reciting both the former charters of 1684 and 1703, Schermerhorn's name as trustee is omitted.

Accompanying the petition was a list of lands sold and leases taken by Ryer Schermerhorn, for which he is said to have given no account to the inhabitants.

"A list of y^e Lands and Income of the township of Schonnectady, viz:

Jacobus Peek, agreedt for his land.

Esias Swart, his land.

Jan Brouwer, his lands.

Phillip Groot, his land of y^e Sixt plains [sixth flat], Phillip Groot has also y^e fyft plains [fifth flat] in hie.

Cornelis Slingerland, hows lott boght.

Johannes Myndertse, hows loot boght.

Claese Franse [van de Bogart], oplandt boght.

Symon Groot, oplandt boght.

Jonathan Stevens, oplandt bought and some cattle.

hendrik brower, oplandt bought.

Jellis Vonda, oplandt bought.

Jacobus peek, landt upon Earequiet of Erfpacht [quit rent].

Jan Landertse, Earequiet [quit rent].

Lewies Vielè, his Landt for y^e fourth shalf of 4th Garf [the fourth sheaf].

Lewis Viele the Groet of his former Landt and some cattell and hoggs.

Arent Vedder, Earequiet [quit rent].

Claes franse [van de Bogart], Earequiet.

Carel Hanse [Toll], Earequiet.

Ryer Schermerhorn, Earequiet.

Tam Smith, Earequiet.

Martje Mastkraft, Earequiet.

These lands are given out. If any more wee cannott tell, nor what day Give.

These folling man [men] had last Jeare transports [deeds] for Great Rewards [of great value?] pretending for the town Juse.

Barent Wemp, Gysbert Gerritse [Van Brakel], Isack Swits, Jan Luycasse, Jan Vrooman, Jan batist [Van Eps], and others.

What y^e above mentioned persons pays Jearely wee cannot tell by reason wee nifer had none of y^e peapers, nor conditions.

On the 25th of May, 1714, Schermerhorn appeared before the Governor and Council, "and after a full hearing of all matters" against him, was suspended from "acting further as Trustee of the said Towne." But as he continued obstinate, disregarding the demand of the new Trustees for an accounting to them of his official acts, they commenced a suit against him in the Court of Chancery; Schermerhorn and his friends instituting counter-suits in the same court.

Of the several suits at law heretofore or subsequently commenced by the contending parties down to the death, in 1795, of the second Ryer Schermerhorn, grandson of the first, a period of nearly one hundred years, no one was ever determined.

Tired and despairing of relief from litigation, the contestants resorted to negotiation and compromise, and failing of this as they always did, they reverted to the Colonial Legislature for redress, but all in vain. The first serious effort at compromise was probably made in 1708, when a futile attempt was made to induce Schermerhorn to transfer his title to the township to the then trustees elected under the charter of 1705.

Failing in this attempt at compromise, the same trustees on June 3, 1709, "in behalf of themselves and other the trustees and inhabitants of Schenectady," presented a petition to the Colonial Assembly to "bring in a bill confirming unto said inhabitants the Powers, etc., mentioned in Letters Patent granted to said town." On June 4th said bill was presented, on the 7th it was read a second time, referred to a committee with power to send for persons and papers and never more heard of.

The next step in this controversy was a power of attorney executed by the opponents of Schermerhorn and his party, to the then trustees elected under the charter of 1705, to demand of Ryer Schermerhorn, Barent Wemp, Johannes Teller, Johannes Wemp and Arent Bratt the books, deeds, bonds, etc., belonging to the town.

The strife and contention in respect to the management of the "common lands" of the township were put to rest for a time by Schermerhorn, in 1714. By lease and release, dated respectively Oct. 22d and 23d, he conveyed all his right and title to these lands to Willem Appel, innkeeper, of

the city of New York. In this conveyance, after reciting the Dongan Patent of 1684, the fact that all the trustees therein named were deceased save Ryer Schermerhorn, "only survivor whereby all the estate, right and title of, in or to all said lands * * not otherwise legally disposed are became solely vested in the said Ryert Schermerhorn in fee simple by right of survivorship, and that said Schermerhorn growing antient is desirous that said * * lands and premises should be conveyed to others together with himself and their heirs that the intent of the said Letters Patent may be duly observed," said Schermerhorn released and confirmed to Willem Appel and his heirs, all the aforesaid lands in "Special trust and confidence that he the said Willem Appel or his heirs will upon request to him made by the said Ryert Schermerhorn his heirs or assigns shall * * execute such conveyance and assurance in the law for the vesting of all the hereinbefore mentioned * * lands * * and all the right, title and interest thereunto hereby conveyed or mentioned or intended to be conveyed to the said Willem Appel, unto the said Ryert Schermerhorn, Jan Wemp, Johannes Teller, Arent Bratt and Barent Wemp * * their heirs and assigns forever, to the intent the same may be held and enjoyed according to the true intent and meaning of the said Letters Patent by the said Thomas Dongan."

On the 25th and 26th of October, said Appel by lease and release reconveyed said land to Ryer Schermerhorn and his said four associates for the purposes above mentioned.

And to confirm the above conveyance, the fourth and last patent was granted by Governor Hunter on the 14th November, 1714.

When New York at the close of the Revolution ceased to be a province of the British empire, many laws and legal customs of the mother country became obsolete, among which was the law of primogeniture. Up to this time Ryer Schermerhorn and his friends, acting under said law, had claimed that the common lands belonged of right to the eldest sons and heirs of the first settlers, or to their assigns, only from twenty-five to thirty of whom were then living in the township. But with the change of the laws, the number of the claimants to the common lands was greatly increased. In 1797 there were nearly 500 families in the township, descendants from the first settlers, who claimed in right of law that these lands belonged to them or their assigns and not to those interlopers, who had become citizens long subsequent to their forefathers.

And, as a recognition of rights, they claimed that these lands should be leased to them on durable leases, and at a nominal rent of from 50 cents to \$7.50 per 100 acres.

These claims and demands of the "descendants" exasperated the other and later settlers, and led to protests and petitions, to the appointment of committees of conference, to consultations with legal authorities and to various reports and plans of compromise.

One of the most elaborate and well-digested plans for the management of the common lands was that of 1793, offered by a committee appointed at a town meeting, held October 1, 1792, a "respectable number of the inhabitants being present."

This committee consisted of John Van Petten, John Glen, Andrew Van Patten, John Sanders, Albert A. Vedder and Abraham Oothout, and made their report January 28, 1793.

Their recommendations were never carried into effect. In 1795 the old Board of Trustees, appointed under Arent Bratt's will, had been in power thirty years, many had passed away, the others had become aged, and it seemed proper and desirable that new blood should be infused into this body; therefore, on the 13th January, 1795, the following persons then seized in fee of the common lands, "as surviving trustees of the town in virtue of the Patent, 1714, and certain mesne conveyances and devises," to wit: Abraham Fonda, Harmanus Bratt, Isaac Vrooman, Nicholas Van Petten, Nicholaas Van der Volgen, Jacobus Myndertse, Samuel Bradt and Abraham Wemple, associated with themselves, as trustees, Nicholaas Veeder, Gerret S. Veeder, Jr., Abraham Oothout, John Sanders and John Glen, by conveying said Patent to Michael Tyms, who reconveyed the same to the above named persons as trustees. And, on the 15th day of March, 1796, certain of the above said trustees by reason of age resigned their trust, and a new board was appointed in their room; to accomplish which the trustees then in power conveyed the Patent to Joseph Mynderse, and he reconveyed the same to Abraham Wemple, Nicholaas Veeder, Gerrit S. Veeder, Jr., John Glen, John Sanders, Abraham Oothout, Abraham Swits, Andries Van Petton, Jellis J. Fonda, Rykert Schermerhorn and Adam S. Vrooman as new trustees, who executed a bond in the penal sum of £5,000 to the retiring trustees for the faithful performance of the duties of their office. These last mentioned trustees held and managed the common lands until 1798, when their powers ceased, being merged by

the first charter of the city of Schenectady in the mayor, aldermen and commonalty.

In furtherance of a compromise or settlement of the disputes in relation to the public lands, the inhabitants appointed a committee in 1795 to take legal counsel on the subject. This committee consisted of Andries Van Petten, Jelles Fonda and Maus Schermerhorn.

In accordance with the opinion obtained by the committee, the Board of Trustees recommended to the committee of the inhabitants to obtain a "proper power from said Inhabitants to transact the business of the town in a more perfect manner," which being done, the trustees appointed out of their number Abraham Swits, Jellis J. Fonda, Andries Van Petten, Adam S. Vrooman, Rykert Schermerhorn and Maus Schermerhorn, to act in connection with the committee of the inhabitants in "bringing the business of the common lands to a speedy settlement." And on the 10th of August (1795) this committee reported to the trustees that "there was a great prospect of a reconciliation of all disputes subsisting between the Inhabitants and Trustees," and asking for further time.

The acts and minutes of the Board of Trustees, from time to time, show quite clearly that they considered the common lands to belong to the descendants of those who were inhabitants of the township in 1684, the date of the Dongan Patent, or at least in 1714, the date of the confirmation of the same.

The other inhabitants were incensed that they had no voice in the disposal of these lands, and, on the 10th April, 1797, sent a petition to the Trustees that a committee from their number might be heard on this subject. This was signed by "Jno. Bpt. Wendell, Jacob Beekman, Joseph Shurtliff, Jno. Bpt. Van Eps, David Tomlinson, Jno. B. Vrooman, Alexander Kelly, Thomas V. Horn, Charles Martin."

On the other hand, on the 24th of the same month, a committee of the "Descendants" made and published the following reports:

The committee of the Descendants or legal Representatives of the Persons who were inhabitants of the Township of Schenectady in the year 1684, being the time when the Patent of said township was granted, or the year 1714, when the above Patent was confirmed:

Report that they have examined the state of the Business belonging to the Trustees of Schenectady Patent, and find that they have sold 8,097 Acres of land, being part of said Patent, engaged 941½ acres of land to different persons, and 600 acres of land applied for; that it appears, from the accounts rendered, that there is the sum of £10,593 for Union

College, Market House and other requisites expended, and a balance, consisting of obligations to the amount of £4,680-6-5, remaining in their hands. The Committee report that in their opinion five trustees, who shall have arrived at the age of twenty-five years, from among the descendants, should be elected annually by the male descendants, who are arrived at the age of twenty-one years, on the second Tuesday of June of every year, whose duty it shall be to render an account yearly and every year of their proceedings to their successors in office, or to any of the descendants who shall wish to have access and examine the same; and to have the deposit, care, trust and management of the Patent, lands, Books, Papers, Monies, Accounts, and other things belonging to the Trustees; and that the Trustees, when elected, or before they enter on the execution of their office, shall severally take and subscribe an oath before some justice of the peace, in the town of Schenectady, that they will well and faithfully perform the trust reposed in them. * * * The committee state that there are nearly five hundred of the descendants' families residing on said patent, and, from a calculation, about forty thousand acres of land unappropriated.

Therefore, Resolved, as the sense of the Committee * * * that it be recommended to the Trustees to lease the lands * * * for a durable term to the descendants, or their legal Representatives, for a sum not exceeding three pounds, nor less than fifty cents, annually per hundred acres, regarding to every descendant's family, or legal Representative, a proportion agreeable to equity, quality and local circumstances.

Given under our hands the twenty-fourth day of April, 1797.

JOHN YATES,
PETER MABEE,
LAWRENCE SCHERMERHORN,
ABRAHAM DE GRAFF,
HENRY A. TELLER,
JELLES A. FONDA.

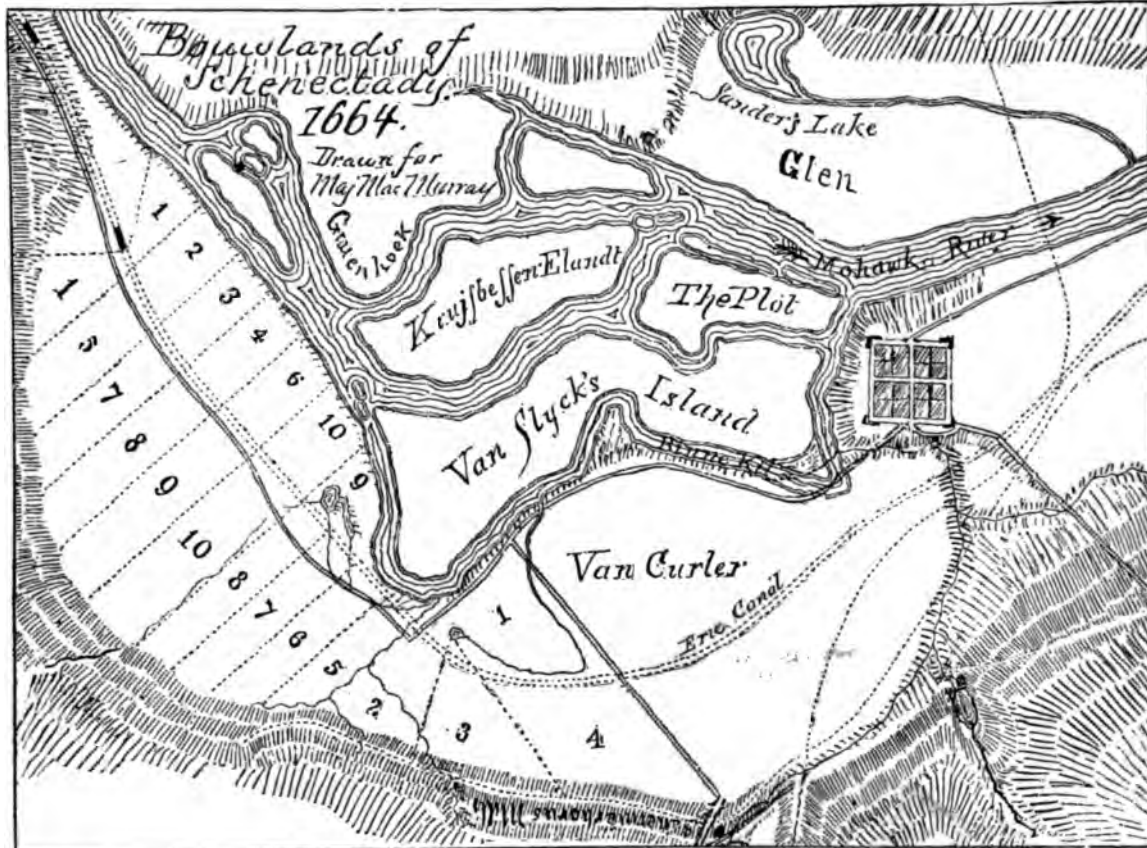
On the 9th September, 1797, the Board of Trustees appointed a committee to consult Abraham Van Vechten, Peter Yates and Joseph C. Yates in relation to a plan of "settlement with the inhabitants concerning the Common lands."

Finally, on March 26, 1798, an act was passed by the Legislature, with the assent and desire, not only of the other inhabitants of the township of Schenectady, but also of the surviving trustees, by which all their powers and duties in relation to the common lands were conferred upon the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of Schenectady. And to adjust all claims against said trustees, the Legislature passed an act the same day appointing a commission, consisting of Zephaniah Platt, Peter Cantine and Derick Lane, who finally determined said claims, and closed their accounts on the 10th August, 1798.

Even after this final transfer of the common lands to the corporation, there was a party who doubted its legality, contending for the resumption and management of them by the old trustees, then surviving.

Others, while reluctantly acquiescing in the transfer of these lands to the city authorities, objected to their being sold off as fast as the inhab-

itants demanded, and contended they should be held for the purpose of supplying the citizens with fuel and timber. Finally, in 1810 (?), the election of aldermen turned on this question; the whole city, then bounded by the ancient limits of the patent, was canvassed by active partisans of both parties, and after a close and heated contest it was decided that the common lands should be sold.



DIVISION OF LANDS.

HOW THE LANDS PURCHASED BY VAN CURLER FROM THE MOHAWKS IN 1661 WERE DIVIDED AMONG THE FIRST PROPRIETORS.

Four different allotments were made to each of the first settlers: First, a house lot in the village; second, a farm on the Great Flat, or islands; third, a pasture ground east of the village; and fourth, a garden lot in the low land (laeghte), west of Mill Creek and near the Binne kil.

FIRST. House Lots.—The village plat, originally embracing mainly the land lying west of Ferry street, was divided into four blocks, or squares, which were again subdivided into ample house lots. For protection, this plat was early surrounded by stockades. As the population outgrew these nar-

row limits, house lots were assigned on the "Albany path" (now State street), so that, before 1690, it was sparsely built up as far east as Lange gang (Center street), and until about 1700 only the north side was occupied by houses. Front, Green and Union streets, east of Ferry street, used for cow paths to the pastures and woodlands, were not then built upon. The little church and graveyard stood at the junction of State, Church and Water streets, and the Dominie's house upon the site of the present church. Many of the original village lots were about 200 feet square—four to a block or square, but were early subdivided to meet the demands for residences within the stockades.

SECOND. The Bowland.—The great tract of flat or bottom land, bounded northerly by the river and State street, southerly by the sand bluff, easterly

by Center street extended south, and westerly by the hills west of the first lock on the canal, embracing several hundred acres of arable land, was anciently called the *Groote Vlachte*.

It was mainly cleared land when the white man first occupied it in 1662, and had been the Mohawks' maize land perhaps for centuries. This and other parcels of like soil along the Mohawk formed the main inducement for the Hollanders to settle here; in them they recognized the *Polders* of fatherland. The bouwland was originally divided into twenty-three separate parcels and assigned to fifteen individuals, no one, with one exception, holding more than fifty acres.

The farm nearest the village, embracing twenty-four acres, was Van Velsen's, bounded by State street, Coehorn and Mill Creeks, as far west as or near to Church street. This, together with the water privilege, was granted in consideration of his building a grist-mill on Mill lane.

The second parcel, consisting of about forty acres of bottom land, anciently called "Gerrit Symonse's meadow," commenced at or near the Coehorn kil, at the south bounds of Van Velsen's land, and extended southerly to and including "Veeder's Mills." This parcel has been preserved nearly entire, and is mostly in the ownership and occupation of the Veeder family at the present time.

The third, the largest and most valuable farm, embracing 114 acres, was Arent Van Curler's, called the *first piece* of land, and after his death, *Juffrow's land*. This was bounded northerly by the Binne kil, easterly by Van Velsen's farm (excepting a few gardens on the south side of Water street), southerly by "Gerrit Symonse's meadow" and by the sand bluff or hills as far as the Schermerhorn Mills, and westerly by farms Nos. 1 and 4, owned by Arent Bratt and Pieter Van Woggelum. The New York Central Railroad runs through the southern end of this valuable tract, and the canal nearly through the middle of it.

The fourth large parcel of the bouwland, called the *second* or *foremost* piece of land, to distinguish it from Van Curler's, which was called the *first piece*, lay next west. The east line of this tract ran along the west fence of the Schenectady car works yard, and so northerly to and around the east side of lot No. 1, belonging to Arent Bratt, following the small brook emptying into the Binne kil, a little east of the farm buildings of the late John Myers. The western line of this parcel was the *Poenties kil* and lot No. 10, belonging to Tunis Cornelise

Swart. This *second piece* was divided into ten farms, including De Winter's or *Elias's Plantasie*, by northeast and southwest lines from the river to the sand bluff, and by easterly and westerly lines nearly coinciding with the river road and canal.

The fifth parcel of bouwlands, called the *hindmost* piece of land, commenced at the *Poenties Kil* and extended west to the hills near the first lock, and was divided into ten farms by northeasterly and southwesterly lines from the river to the hills, and by easterly and westerly lines nearly coinciding with the canal and river road.

The *second* and *hindmost* great lots of the bouwlands, including *Elias's Plantasie*, were subdivided each into ten parcels of about twenty-five acres, numbered from 1 to 10, beginning at the eastern and western extremities of these two parcels, and proceeding toward the *Poenties Kil*, on the west side of which lay the two farms numbered ten, united into one. So that persons to whom were allotted numbers 1, 2, 3, &c., of the *second* near the village, drew also numbers 1, 2, 3, &c., of the *hindmost* parcel at the western extremity of the bouwland, and only one person had all of his land in one place, to wit, Teunis Cornelise Swart, the fortunate holder of the double farm numbered ten. This ingenious plan of allotment was contrived to prevent any one person obtaining an undue advantage over his associates by selecting all his land near the village.

Two other parcels of arable land, separated from the Great Flat by the river, were also assigned at an early day, viz., Marten's or Van Slyck's island, comprising 82 acres, patented to Jaques Cornelise Van Slyck and Jan Barentse Wemp; and the flat lying west and south of the lake in Scotia, granted to Sander Leendertse Glen, estimated at 50 acres.

Finally, on the eastern side of the village, between Front street and the river, was a strip of land called the *Calver Wey*, which was allotted to the first settlers in parcels of $2\frac{1}{2}$ morgens, the easternmost lot being that of Jellis Fonda. Adjoining Fonda's lot easterly was Hans Janse Eenkluy's bouwery of 18 morgens, which, on his death, became the property of the Dutch Church—a legacy for the benefit of the poor of Schenectady.

All lands lying outside of the palisades easterly of Ferry street, save the house lots on the north side of State street as far as Center street, were originally allotted to individuals in parcels of a few acres as woodland or pasture ground.

ORIGINAL OWNERS OF THE TWENTY FARMS INTO WHICH THAT PORTION OF THE GREAT FLAT LYING WESTERLY OF ARENT VAN CURLER'S BOUWERY WAS DIVIDED.

FARMS NO. 1.

Both farms numbered one were patented to Catelyn De Vos, widow of Arent Bratt, *the Norman*, June 2, 1682.

15 Aug., 1705. Former deeds being lost in 1690, Ryer Schermerhorn, only surviving trustee, gave a new deed to Arent Bratt, grandson and heir of Arent Andriese Bratt, for the *first* lot thirty-six acres and *aftermost* lot thirty acres.

27 Aug., 1713, Ryer Schermerhorn and Dirk Bratt conveyed to Samuel Bratt the *hindmost* farm No. 1, containing fifteen morgens and 467 rods.

FARMS NO. 2.

Were first owned by Philip Hendrickse Brouwer.

April 29, 1664, his administrators sold them to Cornelis Van Ness for Jan Dirkse Van Eps, son of Maritie Damen, his wife, for the sum of 1,287 guilders.

Feb. 4, 1713, Johannes Baptist Van Eps, eldest son and heir of Jan Dirkse Van Eps, deceased, conveyed to Arent Bratt the *hindmost* farm, No. 2, comprising twelve morgens.

FARMS NO. 3.

Were first granted to Sander Leendertse Glen, by Patent of date June 16, 1664.

Johannes Glen, by will, devised the remainder of *hindmost* farm, 26th September, 1706, to his younger brother Sander, comprising about twenty acres.

On the 4th June, 1711, Claas Van Patten conveyed to his son, Andries, the *foremost* lot.

Feb. 24, and Aug. 11, 1714. To rectify a disputed line, R. Schermerhorn and Andries Van Petten make a final settlement.

FARMS NO. 4.

Were granted to Pieter Adrianse Soegemakelyk, *alias* Van Woggelum, June 5, 1667, the first containing fourteen morgens, and the second twelve morgens.

Ap. 6, 1681, Van Woggelum reconveyed the same to Reyer Schermerhorn, who had married Otten's widow.

June 29, 1667, Governor Nicolls confirmed to Willem Teller the two farms, No. 5, which were first patented to him by Governor Stuyvesant, June 16, 1664.

Ap. 9, 1752, Willem Teller, son of Johannes, devised the *foremost* farm on the *Poenies Kil* to his son Willem, and the second or *hindmost* farm to his eldest son Johannes.

Gerrit Bancker, of Albany, received the patent for these farms No. 6, June 16, 1664, which patent was confirmed Ap. 27, 1667, by Governor Nicolls.

Although granted to Gerrit Bancker, Harman Albertse Vedder had a half interest in these farms from the beginning.

Evert, son and heir of Gerrit Bancker, sold the *foremost* lot to Isaac Swits, July 7, 1702, for £183 12s.;—it contained 22 acres.

Isaac Swits made his will Ap. 1, 1701,—proved Oct. 4, 1707,—and devised a portion of the *first* farm to his eldest son Cornelis.

The *hindmost* farm belonging to Harmen Vedder; he conveyed the southeasterly half to his son Albert, Mar. 12, 1704, for the sum of £91 16s. This moiety then contained ten acres.

Pieter Jacobse Bosboom *de Steenbakker* received a patent of farms No. 7, June 16, 1664,—confirmed May 9, 1668.

In 1702 the *foremost* lot belonged to Gysbert Gerritse Van Brakel.

Marten Cornelise Van Isselsteyn received a patent for farms No. 8, June 16, 1664,—confirmed by Governor Nicolls, April 13, 1668.

FARMS NO. 9.

Were first conveyed to Simon Volckertse Veeder, *de bakker*, by patent of date June 16th, 1664,—confirmed Jan. 15, 1667, by patent from Governor Nicolls.

Veeder made his will Jan. 8, 1694, bequeathing the *hindmost* farm to his son Volckert.

Volckert Veeder made his will Aug. 4, 1733, and left the *hindmost* lot to his four sons.

The double bouwery No. 10, was first patented to Teunis Cornelise Swart, June 16, 1664, and confirmed Jan. 16, 1667.

26th April, 1692. Wouter Uythoff (third husband of Elizabeth), Swart, widow of Teunis, and said Elizabeth his wife, for 540 beavers conveyed the whole bouwery No. 10, to Claas Laurens Van Purmerend (*alias* Van der Volgen).

The land in the immediate vicinity of the village,—the Great Flat and island,—were all taken up in 1662 by the fifteen first proprietors. Other persons followed the next and succeeding years, and finding no lands unoccupied, either bought up the rights of the earlier owners or pushed further into the wilderness, on both sides of the Mohawk river.

The south side was considered the safest from Indian attacks, and for that reason the Governor and Council at first discouraged settlements on the north side; this was but a temporary check, however. Before the year 1700 all the arable land on both sides of the river to and even beyond the western bounds of the town was taken up and sparsely settled.

These lands had a rich alluvial soil, formed by the annual overflow of the river, and were mainly found in the bends and eddys; excepting the Great Flat they were generally small, comprising but a few acres.

FLATS OR PLAINS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE RIVER—
POVERSEN.

Going west this is the first arable land lying on the south side of the river above the Great Flat. It commenced at the road running west from the first lock and extended up the river to the "stone kil," a dry creek next above the second lock. It was first purchased from the natives by Benjamin Roberts, who sold the same to Hendrick Lambertse Bont. The latter sold the easterly portion to Barent Janse Van Ditmars and the westerly portion to Douwe Aukes, who conveyed the same to

his 'adopted' son Cornelis Vielè. In 1713 Vielè was then residing on this land between the two locks.

FIRST FLAT.

This flat or plain, consisting of about 80 acres of lowlands, is described in Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck's patent, granted in 1684, as "situated between two creeks, one called Stone creek, to the eastward, the other 'Platte creek,' to the westward, come to him in right of his mother, who was a Mohawk woman."

It has remained in the family to this day, passing from father to son by inheritance.

The eastern part of this flat, called "Hazlenut flat," was owned by Manasseh Sixbury, in 1709; he then made his will, leaving his property to his four children.

SECOND FLAT.

This farm, beginning at a little above "*Reghel brugse kil*," was first taken up by Jacobus Peek and Isaac Du Trieux, about 1670, and patented to them in 1677.

Johannes and Jacobus, sons of Jacobus Peek, became the owners of the whole tract. It is now owned by John McCue on the west end, Abraham A. Bratt on the east end.

THIRD FLAT.

This flat lies about eight miles above Schenectady, and consisted anciently of about 127 acres of lowland; in 1864 it was computed at thirty morgens, or say sixty-three acres, and was then occupied—the upper or westerly part by Simon and Nicholas Mebie and Abraham N. Bratt, the lower or eastern portion by the Bratts.

It was taken up by Daniel Janse Van Antwerpen in 1670, and patented to him in 1680.

In 1706 he sold to Jan Pieterse Mebie the west half of the same, consisting of sixty-three acres and seventy-nine rods. The old Van Antwerp house was standing to the west of the Mebie house until a few years ago.

FOURTH FLAT.

The Fourth Flat, lying next west of the third, was granted in 1715, by the trustees of Schenectady, to Pieter Vrooman, who, in 1742, conveyed the same, or at least the western portion of it, to Jan Wemple and Arent Bratt. Johannes Veeder married a daughter of Pieter Vrooman, and inherited the eastern portion, now in possession of Myn-dert, grandson of said Johannes Veeder.

Jan Wemple's land extended to the *Zandig kil*.

DE WILLEGEN, OR WILLOW FLAT.

This flat commenced at Stone creek, below Port Jackson, and ran down the river thirty-four rods [4,188 feet], and contained thirty-three morgens, or sixty-six acres, 390 rods—also 200 acres of woodland.

It was first granted to Pieter Van Olinda and Claas Willemse Van Coppemol; Van Olinda holding the eastern half and Van Coppemol the western half, which he conveyed to Philip Phillipse in 1689 in exchange for the Sixth Flat, on the north side of the river.

FLATS OR PLAINS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE RIVER—
CLAAS GRAVEN'S HOEK.

The first land settled upon west of Scotia was the *Hoek*. This farm was taken up by Claas Andriese De Graaf, the first settler. After his death, which took place before 1697, his widow, Elizabeth Brouwer, leased it to Jonathan Stevens and Daniel Mas-craft.

In 1714 Gysbert Marcelis received a patent for six acres of land on the Hoek for a *hofstede*, he being then the owner of the neighboring island, called *Gyse's island*.

MAALWYCK.

Benjamin, or Bent, Roberts first purchased this farm of the natives, with the approbation of the magistrates of Albany—thirty-six acres of land, together with forty acres of woodland, which was confirmed to him July 1, 1669.

This bouwery lay opposite to Arent [Bratt] the Norman's *hindmost* lot of land. The farm is in the possession and occupation of a descendant of Carel Hansen.

SECOND FLAT.

The flat extends from Rector's easterly, and in 1864 was owned by Gerrit Barhydt, 17 acres; Frank Potter, 40 acres; D. D. Campbell, 30 acres. Total, with *upland*, 87 acres.

This Second Flat proper was originally taken up about 1678—the eastern half by Pieter Cornelise Viele, and the western half by Jan Janse Joncker, *alias* Rotterdam.

Reyer Schermerhorn, by will made 1717, devised this land to his son Arent; and Reyer Schermerhorn, grandson of Reyer Schermerhorn the first, in 1773, released said land to Abraham Schermerhorn.

After Joncker's death his share of this flat, being the western half, was divided among his five daughters.

FOURTH FLAT.

This flat extends westerly from Rector's to "Arent Mebie's kil," and was owned in 1864 by William Rector, 40 acres; Smith B. Walton, 3 acres; Adam Swart, 7 acres; Nicholas Swart, 7 acres; John Walton, 5½ acres. Total, with *upland*, 62½ acres.

In 1678 Sander Glen petitioned the Governor to grant the fourth flat to Lewis Cobes and his son-in-law, Johannes Kleyn.

In 1683 the Mohawk Sakemakers conveyed this flat to Arnout Cornelise Viele,—16 or 17 morgens—for services rendered as interpreter,—lying over against the [second] flat occupied by Jacobus Peek,—and by the Mohawks called *Wachkeer-hoha*.

In 1684 the patentees of Schenectady conveyed it to Ludovicus Cobes and Johannes Kleyn, with a *lapie* (remnant—a gore), by it, on the other [north] side of the river, containing 17 morgens, 164 rods of land.

In 1714 Willem Marinus, who had married Baefie, youngest daughter of said Kleyn, united with his wife and conveyed her third share of three morgens to Pieter Clement and Anna his wife

(sister of said Baefie), and in 1716 said Pieter Clement conveyed to the trustees of Schenectady six morgens of land at the west end of said flat.

In 1725 Col. Stephanus Groesbeck owned the western portion of this flat, which "*hindmost* half" was the portion owned by Kleyn, and contained nine morgens.

FIFTH OR WOLF FLAT.

This flat, extending from "Arent Mebie's kil" west, is now in the possession and occupation of John Barhydt, and consists of about 85 acres of land.

In 1678 "the commissaries of Schanectade made application to y^e Go: that the fifth Plaine or Flatland on the other [north] side of the Maquaes river may be disposed of for a minister, reader, &c.,—and also that the rest of the Plains or Flatts may be at the disposall of the Cort."

Jasaias Swart succeeded them as lessee, probably for another term of seven years, and in 1713 his lease was renewed for twenty years at a rent of £6-19-6.

In 1768 Pieter Mebie by will devised his land, being the whole of the fifth flat, to Jan Mebie, his son, who, in 1789, devised the same to his widow and two sons, Pieter and Simon, and they, in 1799, conveyed the same to David Lawyer, Jr.

The latter sold the same to John S. Barhydt, from whom it passed by inheritance to his son John.

SIXTH FLAT.

This flat begins just east of the seventh flat, from which it is separated by the *Droybergh, Verf* or color kil, *alias Tequatsera*. It was owned in 1864 by Aaron Swart.

It was first occupied by Philip Philipse De Moer, as a tenant of the trustees of Schenectady. In 1689 he exchanged his ownership in the same with Claas Willemse Van Coppernol for a portion of the *Willegen Vlachte*, and in 1708 Sander, his son, leased it for twelve years at a rent of £2 8s. It then consisted of five morgens, with an additional three morgens of woodland.

On the 2d September, 1714, Reyer Schemerhorn conveyed this flat, containing about seven morgens or fourteen acres, also ten morgens or twenty acres of woodland lying behind it, to the Dutch church. In 1770 Fsaia Swart was in possession of this plain, which then was computed to contain seven morgens.

SEVENTH FLAT.

This flat lies near Hoffman's ferry, between the Droybergh Kil on the east and Van Eps' kil on the west.

In 1684 the trustees of Schenectady conveyed the western half to Carel Hansen Toll, reserving a rent of one skipple of wheat.

Reyer Schemerhorn owned the eastern half.

In 1705 Reyer Schemerhorn conveyed the eastern half of this flat to his son Jan; and, by his will, made 1717, devised the same to the children of his daughter Catalyntje, wife of John Wemp.

In 1733 the Wemps transferred their interest to Johannes Van Eps, owner of the other half.

CAMBEFORT'S PATENT.

In 1694 Gerardus Cambefort contracted to sell his patent to Carel Hansen Toll, land he had previously received of the Indians. In 1703 Lord Cornbury granted Cambefort a patent for twenty acres of land, "beginning from a place called *Kanguaragoone* [now Towereune], the western bounds of the patent granted to Schenectady, running up westward to limits of land formerly conveyed to Henry Cuyler, deceased." Immediately thereafter Cambefort conveyed the same to Toll. This land extends along the river westward from Towereune to Lewis Creek.

CLAES GRAVEN'S HOEK—CUYLER'S VLACHTE OR ADRIUCHA.

In 1686, "To Philip Wells, surveyor-general, about thirty acres of lowland and fifty of upland was granted, provided the said land be not already appropriated or disposed of."

Philip Groot, of Schenectady, early settled on this land and, after his death in 1716, was succeeded by his son Ludovicus (Lewis), who gave name to the creek forming the eastern bounds of this patent.

Adriucha is still in possession of the Groot family at what is now called Crane's Village.

ISLANDS.

GREAT ISLAND IN NISKAYUNA.

This is one of the largest islands in the river, containing about 80 acres. It was conveyed to Hillette Cornelise, sister of Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck, by the Mohawks, June 1, 1667, and confirmed by Governor Nicolls, May 8, 1668. On the 4th March, 1669, and again on Feb. 6, 1703, Hillette and her husband, Pieter Van Olinda, conveyed it to Johannes Clute, which sale was confirmed by the Governor and Council, Aug. 2, 1671.

Again, on June 25, 1707, it was transferred to Robert Livingston for £420, and lastly to said Livingston, August 9, 1707, for £706, together with 20 acres on the main land between the two creeks.

FIVE SMALL ISLANDS AT NISKAYUNA.

At a conference with the Five Nations at Albany, 19th July, 1701, they say:

"BROTHER CORLAER:—

"Wee have a small right in the Maquase river att Canastagiowne, to wit, five small Islands containing about five or six acres between Rosendael and Cornelis Tymes's, which wee give to Jan Baptist Van Eps and Lawrence Claese [Vander Volgen], the two Interpreters to be equally divided between them—John Baptist to have the uppermost halfe and Lawrence the lowermost—and that in consideration, because they take much pains in interpreting."

MARTEN'S, VAN SLYCK'S OR WEMP'S ISLAND.

This large island lying west of the city, and separated therefrom by the Binne Kil, was early granted by the Mohawks to Marten Cornelise Van Slyck *alias* Marten Maurits, a half breed, who dying in 1662, Governor Stuyvesant gave a patent for the same, November 12, 1662, to his brother and heir,

Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck, and Jan Barentse Wemp. Stuyvesant's patent was confirmed by Governor Nicolls, April 13, 1667; it then contained, including another small island separated by a creek, 82 acres.

A portion of the west end of the island was anciently called *Jan Pappen Leghten*.

KRUYSBESSEN (GOOSEBERRY) ISLAND.

This island lies northerly of Van Slyck's island, from which it is separated by a rapid called "Knock 'em stiff." January 2, 1698, the justice of the peace (Johannes Sanderse Glen), and *gemeen mannen* of Schenectady, conveyed to Gysbert Geritse [Van Brakel] an island on the north side of the river, called *Kruysbessen* (Gooseberry) island, lying west of *Spuyten duysel* [island]; consideration, 32 beavers at six guilders per beaver, to be paid within three years.

SPUYTEN DUYVEL.

Johannes Sanderse Glen bought this island of the trustees of Schenectady, together with a parcel of "*boslandt*," in 1708, for £16-10.

It lies just opposite the old Glen [now Sanders] House in Scotia, and formerly contained several acres, but is now reduced to the fraction of an acre and quite valueless for tillage.

VARKENS, OR HOG ISLAND.

This island lies at the north end of Van Slyck's island, and is separated from it by an arm of the Mohawk River, which at the ordinary low water is a mere sluggish bayou.

It originally contained about three morgens or six acres. The eastern end next the Binne kil is called the *platt*, a low muddy islet of triangular shape, and at ordinary times scarcely separated from it. In early times this island was claimed by the owners of Van Slyck's island.

On the 9th November, 1670, Pieter Jacobse Bosboom received a patent "to confirm to him "a small island belonging to him, which hath "heretofore been given to him by the Indians, "lying in the river there next to the island of "Sweer Teunise and Akes Cornelise [Van Slyck] "containing about six acres or three morgens."

VAN EPS ISLAND.

This small island lies north of Varken's island, from which it is separated by a bayou nearly filled up.

A portion of this island was devised in 1800 by John Baptist Van Eps to his son John, after his

wife's decease; another portion—an undivided sixth part—was conveyed in 1808 by Tobias H. Ten Eyck to Cornelis Vrooman.

DE LA WARDE'S, JORIS AERTSE'S, OR GUISE'S ISLAND.

This island lies on the northwesterly side of Van Slyck's island, and contained originally fifteen or sixteen morgens of land.

It was first owned by Jan De La Warde, who sold it to Joris Aertse Van der Baast.

The *hofstede* of this farm was on the mainland opposite, adjoining the land of Claas De Graff, and consisted of six acres. Nicholas De Graff, who owned the neighboring mainland, purchased this island of Gysbert Marselis, who bought it June 23, 1714.

FONDA'S ISLAND.

The situation of this island is best described in the patent to Simon Simonse Groot, of date Aug. 9, 1694, "to confirm to him a small island in the "Mohawk River within the town of Schenectady "possessed by him for twenty-seven years, to wit, "a certain small island in the Mohawk River "lying to the north of the *Hoek*, or point of Reyer "Jacobsen's [Schermerhorn], and the southward "of the island belonging to Joris Aertsen [now "Guise's], and to the westward of the island lately "belonging to Sweer Teunise, deceased—contain- "ing five morgens or ten acres."

Philip Livingston, of Albany, afterwards became its owner and sold it to Jellis Fonda, by whose will, made September 8, 1737, it was divided among his three sons, Pieter, Abraham and Jacob.

SASSIAN'S OR CLAAS VIELE'S ISLAND.

The next island above Guise's island is Sassian's or Claas Viele's island, containing between seven and nine morgens.

It lay opposite the "*hindmost* lot No. 1," of Arent Bratt, and belonged originally to Hendrick—Lambertse Bont *alias* Sassian, by whom it was sold to Douw Aukes and then to his adopted son Cornelis Viele. The Vieles long possessed and gave their name to it.

BENTEN, OR BENT'S ISLAND.

This is the large island next above Sassian's island, lying on the north side of the river, and originally contained about ten morgens. It was first possessed by Bent Roberts, from whom it passed by his will to his two stepsons, Joseph and Pieter Clement. They sold the upper half to Carel Hansen Toll, and the lower half to Cornelis Viele.

To all Christian People to whom these Present Writing shall come Daniel
 Jans Van Antwerpen of the Township of Schenectady in the County of Albany in the
 Province of New-York Yeoman Sons Brethren Viz Know YE that by virtue of a
 Confirmation to me granted by his Excellency Francis Lovelace in the Year of our Lord
 one thousand Six hundred Seventy and one the then Governor Genl under his Royal
 Highness James Duke of Albany and the Secretary thereunto depending And for and in many
 other good Causes and Consideration him therunto moving By virtue of the above men-
 tioned Confirmation, I have Remised, Released and for ever Quit Claimed and by these
 Presents for himself and his Heirs doth fully, freely and Absolutely Remise, Release and for
 ever Quit Claim unto Mr. Thomas Brouwer Minister, Leut. Gerrit Simonson, Capt
 Johannis Sanders Plein Mr. Volker Simonson & Mr. Simon Switz Elders and Deacons of
 the Reformed Neithier Dutch Church of the Town of Schenectady above said and their
 Successors for the only Use of the afore mentioned Neithier Dutch Reformed Church
 in them and their Peaceable Possession & Serim and to their Successors for ever for
 the only Use benefit and behoofe of the afore said Reformed Neithier Dutch Church
 and for no other Use whatsoever all such Right, Estate, Title, Interest, Claim and
 Demand whatsoever as the said Daniel Jans Van Antwerpen hath or ought to have
 of, in, to, or all that Certain Lot of Ground Situate lying and being in the Town
 of Schenectady and house thereon Erected Containing in Length on the East Side
 where it falls to the Lot of Ground now belonging to Julius Van Lough two hundred
 foot and on the South Side by the High way one hundred foot and on the West
 Side likewise by the High and on the North side abutting the Lot now in Possession of
 John Peterson Mahee that formerly belonged to Jan Jans Yoncked where it is in breadth
 and length as before And so mentioned in the Confirmation above mentioned of being
 a Corn Lot; By any wayes or Means whatsoever **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the said
 Lot of Ground and the house thereon Erected unto the said Thomas Brouwer
 Gerrit Simonson, Johannis Sanders Plein, Volker Simonson & Simon Switz and their
 Successors, for the Benefit and behoofe of the Reformed Neithier Dutch Church
 above mentioned of Schenectady afore said; TO the only Use and behoofe of the said
 Minister & Elders and Deacons yearly for the only Sole & proper Use Benefit and
 behoofe for ever and their Successors of the afore said Reformed Neithier Dutch Church
 for ever. **IN WITNESS** whereof the said Daniel Jans Van Antwerpen hath hereunto
 set his hand and Seal in Schenectady this three and twentieth day of June in the
 first Year of the Reigne of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE by the Grace of GOD of Great
 Brittain, France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith Anno Que Domini 1715

Handwritten note: This was signed before signed sealed and delivered It should have been Duke of York & Albany

Daniel Jans Van Antwerpen

Jacobus van Dyck
 Jan weemp
 Dec 1715

ADULT FREEHOLDERS.

SOME OF THE ADULT FREEHOLDERS WHO SETTLED IN SCHENECTADY BEFORE 1700.

Several of the first settlers who co-operated in founding the village in 1662 were of mature age—scarcely any were aged.

Van Curler, Glen, Bratt, Swits, Schermerhorn, Vedder, Veeder, Van Eps, Vrooman, Wemp, etc., may be mentioned as of this class, whose children before 1700 had reached mature years and become heads of families.

They were nearly all farmers, whatever else they might do; their farms were small, seldom exceeding fifty acres of *arable* land, and their families were large, often numbering from ten to fifteen children.

ADRIAEN APPEL was innkeeper in Beverwyck in 1654. His two sons, Jan and Willem, lived here in 1670. In 1704 Willem owned the lot extending from the store of Robert Ellis to that of Samuel Myers, including the canal, and the building called the "Wedge." In 1710 Appel owned lots 103 to 111, inclusive.

DOUWE AUKES (De Freeze) came here in 1663, and became an innkeeper. His inn was on southeast corner of State street and Mill Lane, February 10, 1718. He conveyed his property to Cornelius Viele.

GERRIT BANCKER was one of the first proprietors, but never became a resident. His house in 1662 was bounded by Union, Washington, State and Church streets. It was sold by his son in 1702 to Cornelius Swits. The corner lot was sold to James Murdoch in 1802.

BARHYDT ANDRIES HAUSE and JERONIMUS HAUSE were among the early settlers. They owned in 1760 a lot with forty-eight feet frontage, on Front street, at Jefferson.

CALEB BEEK settled here in 1700. He was an innkeeper, and his house lot was on the south corner of Union and Church streets. This lot remained in the family for about one hundred years.

HENDRICK LAMBERTSE BONT (Bint, Bent) in 1692 owned land lying mainly above the first lock, west of the city. He also owned *Sassian's Island*. The land long remained after passing from Bont's possession in the Viele family.

PIETER JACOBSE BARSBOOM DE STEENBAKKER was one of the first fifteen settlers. His village lot was on the south corner of Washington and Front streets, and passed to his four daughters, and remained in the family for many years.

ARENT ANDRIESE BRATT was one of the first proprietors in 1662. He owned a farm of about sixty acres, which afterward was in possession of Judge Tomlinson, deceased. The "hindmost" farm fell to Mrs. Bratt's second son, Samuel.

ANDRIES ARENTSE and Capt. ARENT ANDRIESE BRATT in about 1700 owned various parcels of land, part of which Reyer Schermerhorn disposed of as trustee.

SAMUEL ARENTSE BRATT was born in 1659, and died in 1713 or 1714. His farm passed to his son Arent, who built the brick house, a short distance west of the first lock on the canal, and continued in the family until 1839.

DIRK ARENTSE BRATT was born in 1661. He owned a farm in Niskayuna, which passed to his eldest son, Johannes, by will. Dirk was buried June 9, 1735.

PHILIP HENDRICKSE BROUWER was one of the original proprietors in 1662, and owned lot No. 2, which in 1667 was owned by Jan Van Eps.

HENDRICK WILLEMSE BROUWER owned a lot on east side of Church street in about 1700. This was owned by his widow in 1724.

GERALDUS CAMBEFORT (or Comfort) was here in 1690, and owned 20 acres on north side of Mohawk. This was afterward owned by Johannes Van Eps.

CHRISTIAAN CHRISTIAANSE, in 1671, had a village lot on the northeast side of Union street, adjoining the Dutch Church lot. It was owned in 1701 by Jellis Van Vorst.

PIETER and JOSEPH CLEMENT owned land here from about 1725 to 1755. The property afterward passed into the hands of Cornelius Viele and Hausen Toll.

LUDOVICUS COBES lived here in 1677, being scribe and secretary of Schenectady. He owned the fourth flat on the north side of the river, which was afterward owned by his daughter, Maria Klein.

Capt. JAN, JOHANNES and FREDERICK CLUTE were early residents. Capt. Jan owned the Great Island in 1671, and lands in Canastota. He died in 1683, leaving his property to his nephew, Johannes Clute, who, in 1704, sold part of it to Frederick Clute. Johannes died in 1725. All the Clutes in this region are believed to be descended from either Johannes or Frederick.

CLAAS ANDRIES DE GRAAF was one of the first settlers, taking up land at the Hoeck, at Scotia, where, for several generations, the family resided.

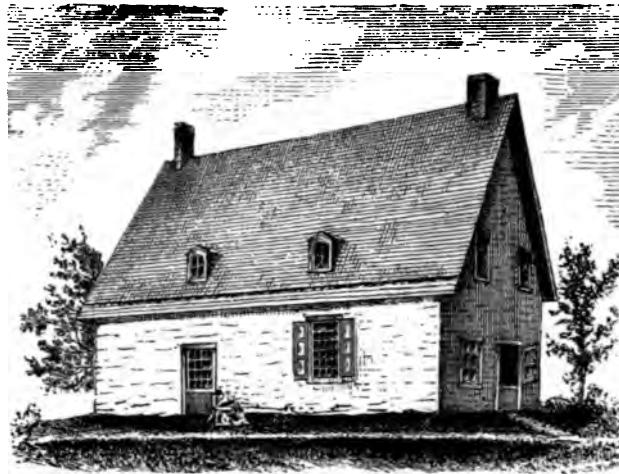
JAN DE LA WARDE bought land in about 1675 at Niskayuna, and an island in the Mohawk, which was called La Warde's Island, and afterward

Jaris Aertse's Island. It lies just north of Van Slyck's Island. It was conveyed in 1699 to Gysbert Marcelis, of Albany. Since then it has been called "Gyse's Island." The Niskayuna property was also sold to Jaris Aertse in 1699.

HANS JANSE EENKLUYS came to Schenectady soon after it was settled; died in 1683, leaving his property to the church. His farm consisted of 18 mor-

gens of river flats, lying in Third Ward. After holding this land for 180 years, it was sold by the church, in 1863, for \$11,000.

Dominie BARNHARDUS FREEMAN, the second minister of the church, came here in 1700. He staid here five years, and died in 1741. He married Margarita Van Schaaick, of New York, in 1705.



Mebie House.

JAN PIETERSE MEBIE married Anna, daughter of Pieter J. Borsboom. His home lot was on the east side of Church street, to the north of the Dutch Church. He was in the possession of this lot before 1690. His farm was on the third flat, on the south side of the river, about eight miles above the village. His descendants still occupy the farm. It is the writer's belief that the house on this farm, at least its stone walls, date from 1670-80, when Daniel Janse Van Antwerp occupied the land in the center of which it stands. The Mebie House, as it is now known, is doubtless the oldest house in the Mohawa Valley, if not in the State of New York.*

SANDER LEENDERTSE (LINDSAY) GLEN came from Scotland about 1633. His wife was Catalyn Doncassen. They both died within about a year of each other—she, August 12, 1684; he, November 13, 1685—leaving three sons, Jacob, who settled in Albany, Sander and Johannes. He was one of the first proprietors of Schenectady.

Sander Glen, second son of Sander Leendertse, was born in 1647. His village lot was on the north side of Washington street, adjoining the estate of the late Judge Paige. Captain Sander

Glen died about 1695, without issue, leaving his estate to the children of his two brothers, Jacob and Johannes. The farm of Sander Leendertse, lying on the north side of the river, was called *Scotia*.

The Glen property comprised several hundred acres. By marriage this estate passed to the Sanders family, by whom a large portion of it is still held.

Johannes, youngest son of Sander Leendertse, was born in 1648.

The residence of Charles P. Sanders was built by him in 1713, and occupied until his death in 1731.

SYMON SYMONSE GROOT came here in 1663. He married Rebecca, daughter of Philip Du Trieux, of New Amsterdam, and had six sons and four daughters, of whom Symon, Abraham, Philip, Dirk and Claas were captured by the French and Indians in 1690 and carried to Canada. They were redeemed the following year. His home lot was on the northern side of Union street, 100 feet west from Church street. It remained in the family several generations. Symon Symonse Groot, Jr., was his eldest son, and he married, in 1692, Geertruy, daughter of Jan Rinckhout, of Albany. His village lot was on the north side of State street.

*The house in Southampton, L. I., now occupied by Mrs. Larry, daughter of Capt. Stephen Sayre, deceased, was built by Thomas Sayre in 1648 or 1649.

Philip Groot settled on the north side of the river, near Crane's village. He married Sarah, daughter of Jacobus Peek. Abraham Groot married Antje Wemp, widow of Sander Glen, in 1696, and secondly, Hesterje, daughter of Harmen Visscher, of Albany, in 1699, by whom he had several children. His home lot was on the north side of Union street, about half way up College Hill.

GERRIT MARSELIS was the son of Marselis Janse, of Albany, and early settled here. He was slain in 1690. His lots, Nos. 139 to 143, afterward belonged to Wm. McCamus.

AHASUERUS MARSELIS came here about 1698. He was a shoemaker, and had his shop on the south corner of Mill lane and State street. This property was afterward owned by Pieter Fonda, and the lot in the rear by Marselis, Fonda and Robert Yates.

JOHANNES MYNDERTSE came here in 1700; by trade a smith, he was armorer of the Fort. He owned two lots on State street, one where Barney's store now stands; the other on the west corner of Mill lane and State street, where his dwelling was. Myndertse left by will, proved September 7, 1757, his property to his three sons, Myndert, Reinier and Jacobus.

PHILIP PHILIPSE married Elizabeth, daughter of Harmen Ganzevoort, of Albany, about 1685. The descendants of Philipse still reside on or near Willow flat. Jan Philipse, a brother, is first mentioned as a member of the church in 1701.

JAN ROELOFFOE was the eldest son of the famous Anneke Janse, by her first husband, Roeloffe Jansen. In 1680 he owned a home lot on the north side of Union street; the lot subsequently owned by Joseph Y. and Giles Van De Bogart.

JACOB JANSE SCHERMERHORN died at Schenectady in 1689, where he had lived for some years. He left part of his property to his son Reyer, who married Ariaantje Bratt. Symon Schermerhorn, another son of Jacob Janse, was in 1693 a skipper on the Hudson river.

CORNELIUS SLINGERLAND married Eva Mebee in 1699. His house lot (1706-22) was on the south side of State street, forty feet east of Water street alley.

ISAAC CORNELISE SWITS settled here in 1663. He married Susanna Groot, by whom he had nine children, eight of whom were living in 1701, when he made his will. CORNELIUS SWITS was his eldest son. He married Hester Visscher, of Albany, and took up his residence there about 1702.

TEUNIS CORNELISE SWART was one of the early settlers. He occupied the lot on the east corner

of Church and State streets. He had other property. ESAIAS SWART was son of Teunis. He married Eva, daughter of Teunis Van Woert, and owned a village lot on the east side of Church street.

WILLEM TELLER was one of the first proprietors, though never a resident here. He died in 1701, in his 81st year. His house lot was on Washington street.

CAREL HANSEN TOLL first settled at Hoffman's Ferry. In 1712 he owned a village lot here, on Union street, which is the present Courthouse lot. He married Lysbet, daughter of Daniel Rinckhout, of Albany, and had eight children. He owned Cuyler's flat, Cambefort's flat, the seventh flat and Maalwyck.

DANIEL JANSE VAN ANTWERPEN was born in 1635, coming here about 1665. He built, substantially, what is now known as the Mebie House, above referred to. JAN DANIELSE VAN ANTWERPEN, Daniel's oldest son, was born about 1670; married Angnieta Vedder in 1700, and died January 20, 1756. Arent, another son, married Sara, daughter of Johannes Van Epps, and had nine children. His village lot is now occupied by Given's Hotel.

MARTEN VAN BENTHUYSEN, through his wife, Feitje, daughter of Pieter Jacobse Borsboom, had a fourth interest in Borsboom's land.

GYSBERT GERRITSE VAN BRAKELEN came here in about 1700. He owned several lots of land. He left two sons, Gerrit and Gysbert.

ARENT VAN CURLER was the leader of the colony at Schenectady in 1662. He came over in 1630, and in 1643 married Antonia Slaaghboom, widow of Jonas Bronck. No man of his time had so fully won the confidence and esteem of the Indians, and to honor his memory they ever addressed the Governor of the Province by his name. He was drowned on Lake Champlain in July, 1669. Van Curler's home lot in the village was a portion of the block bounded by Union, Church, Front and Washington streets. The Rev. WM. ELLIOT GRIFFIN, D. D., says that "Arent Van Curler was a scholar and a gentleman, fluent with his pen, possessing a gift by no means to be despised—the mastery of language. He was a man of systematic mind, so faithful to his trust and vow as to recall a Roman of classic days; and so kind of heart, so full of deep conviction of conscience, along with the power of rising above the narrowness of sect or nationality, as to suggest a Christian. Brave as a lion, fearless neither of conspirators, scheming lawyers, who made use of their profession mainly to molest honest men, or of crafty savages, or perfidi-

ous French ; further, he had the eye of an engineer and strategist, with the foresight of a statesman."

FRANS VAN DE BOGART came here among the early settlers, and was killed in the massacre of 1690. His farm lay on the south side of the river at and below the Saratoga Railroad bridge, and a portion of it still belongs to his descendants.

LAURENS CLAESE VAN DER VOLGEN, at the destruction of the village in 1690, was made captive by the Indians, with whom he remained several years. He became interpreter for the Province, which position he held until his death, in 1742. His village lot was the eastern half of the lot now occupied by the Myers block, and he also owned part of the fifth flat.

JACOBUS VAN DYCK was a doctor ; he settled here and practiced his profession until his death. He married Jacomyntje, daughter of Johannes Sanders Glen, October 25, 1694, and had two children, Elizabeth, and a son, Cornelius, who followed his father's profession and inherited his possessions.

DIRK VAN EPS married Maritie Damens, and had two children, Johannes and Lysbert, who became the wife of Gerrit Bancker, of Albany. His home lot was on the north corner of State and Church streets. JAN BAPTIST VAN EPS, eldest son of Jan Dirkse Van Eps, was born in 1673, and married Helena, daughter of Johannes Sanderse Glen, in 1699, and had eleven children, all of whom, save one, reached mature age and had families. He was captured by the Indians in 1690, with whom he remained three years. He owned, with other parcels, the "foremost" farm, No. 8, on the bouwland. This farm has remained in the family until this day. EVERT VAN EPS was a son of Jan Dirkse Van Eps. His first wife was Eva, daughter of Carle Hansen Toll ; his second, Elizabeth, daughter of Isaac Truax. He had thirteen children. His village lot was on the west side of Washington street.

CLAAS FREDERICKSE VAN PETTEN was born in 1641. His wife was Aeffie, daughter of Arent Bratt. They had eight children. They both died in 1728, she aged seventy-eight years, he eighty-seven years. He owned a farm between the river and the lake in Scotia, and a village lot, being part of the Glen lot.

HARMEN ALBERTSE VEDDER owned much land here at an early day, removing here in about 1672. He died, June 18, 1714, leaving five sons and one daughter. ALBERT VEDDER, eldest son of Harmen, was born in 1671. He was captured by the Indians in 1690, and was kept in captivity for several

years. His village lot was on the north side of Union street. It was afterward owned by Regnier Schaets. HARMANUS VEDDER, son of Harmen, was an Indian trader, and owned a village lot on the north corner of State and Church streets. In 1757 Harmen Vedder, Jr., conveyed this lot to Alexander Vedder. Ferry street (extended south) passes through this lot. ARENT VEDDER, son of Harmen, married Sara, daughter of Symon Groot, and had eleven children, all of whom, save one, were living, and had families, August 10, 1846, when he made his will. His village lot, on the west side of Washington street, is now owned by D. Cady Smith. JOHANNES VEDDER, fourth son of Harmen, was carried to Canada in 1690 with his brother Albert. He inherited a portion of the "hindmost" farm, No. 8, from his father. CORSET VEDDER, fifth son of Harmen, lived in "Schaghkook" until 1720, when he removed to Niskayuna. He owned four morgens of his father's farm.

SYMON VOLCKERTSE VEEDER was born in 1624. His home lot in the village was on the north corner of State and Ferry streets. GERRIT SYMONSE VEEDER, son of Symon, married Tryntje, daughter of Helmer Otten, in 1690. He was the owner of much landed property. PIETER SYMONSE VEEDER, son of Symon, married Neeltje, daughter of Claase Van der Volgen, in 1704. He settled on the Normans Kil. He died about 1709. JOHANNES SYMONSE VEEDER, son of Symon, resided on the Normans Kil, where he had a portion of his father's land. VOLKERT SYMONSE VEEDER, son of Symon, lived on the north corner of Ferry and State streets, on a lot received from his father.

PIETER CORNELISE VIELE was among the early settlers. He owned part of De Winter's bouwery in 1670, and died some time before 1690. CORNELIS VIELE, brother of Pieter, owned the two bouweries No. 8. He was one of the two licensed tapsters of the village, his inn being on the south corner of Mill lane and State, near Church street. ARNOUT CORNELISE VIELE, son of Cornelis, was for many years provincial interpreter. On account of the Indians' high esteem for him, the Mohawks, in 1683, gave him a parcel of land, above Schenectady, on the north side of the river, called Wach-keerhoha.

HENDRICK MEESE VROOMAN came here in 1677 and bought the Van Curler bouwery. His village lot was on the north side of State street. He was slain in 1690. ADAM VROOMAN, son of Hendrick, in 1690, saved his life "by his bravery in defending his house, which stood near the north gate,

on the west corner of Church and Front streets." Besides this lot he owned other parcels of land.

JAN VROOMAN, son of Hendrick, married Geesie, daughter of Symon Veeder, July 4, 1680, and had fifteen children, the most of whom attained maturity and had families. His village lot, inherited from his father, was on the north side of State street, near Given's Hotel. Capt. HENDRICK VROOMAN was the fourth son of Adam Vrooman. Among other parcels of land, he owned in 1706 a lot on the south side of State street, "on the side of the Cohorn creek." BARENT VROOMAN, son of Adam, married Tryntje, daughter of Takel Heemstraat, of Albany, June 18, 1699. He died in 1746; his village lot was on the north corner of State and Center streets. WOUTER VROOMAN, son of Adam, married Marytje, daughter of Isaac Hallenbeck, of Albany; they had sixteen children; he died October 26, 1856; he owned five different parcels of land. JAN VROOMAN, son of Adam, was by trade a brewer. He received some land from his father, among which was a parcel lying west of the city, now mainly covered by the canal and railroad. PIETER VROOMAN, son of Adam, married Grietje, daughter of Isaac Van Alstyne, of Albany, February 2, 1706; they had twelve children. He settled early upon "Vrooman's land," in Schoharie. SIMON VROOMAN, son of Jan Vrooman, married Eytje, daughter of Jacob Delamont. He bought, in 1710, a "lot lying on the west side of the canal, extending from State to Liberty street." By his will, made in 1752, his son Jacob inherited this, and his son Johannes the "tan-pits," near the Church mill on Mill lane.

JAN BARENTSE WEMP settled here in 1662, buying "Van Slyck's" or "Wemp's Island." His village lot was on the west side of Washington street. This lot was inherited by his son Myndert, who was killed in the massacre of 1690. MYNDERT WEMP, son of Jan, was born in 1649. He married Diewer, daughter of Evert Wendel, of Albany. CAPT. BARENT WEMP, son of Jan, was born in 1656, and married Folkje, daughter of Symon V. Veeder. His village lot was on the east corner of State and Center streets. The front of this lot is now occupied by the Carley House.

ROBERT YATES, son of Joseph Yates, settled in Schenectady at the age of twenty-three, and married Grietje Claase De Graff, of the *Hoek* in *Scotia*. His village lot was on the Albany road, near the present Ferry street. By his will, made in 1747, he left his interest in his tan-yards to his sons, Joseph and Abraham. Robert, son of Joseph, settled in Schenectady before 1712, and his

nephew, Joseph Christoffelse, settled here in 1734. Abraham, a son of the latter, owned a house and lot on Union street, opposite the Court House.



Yates House.

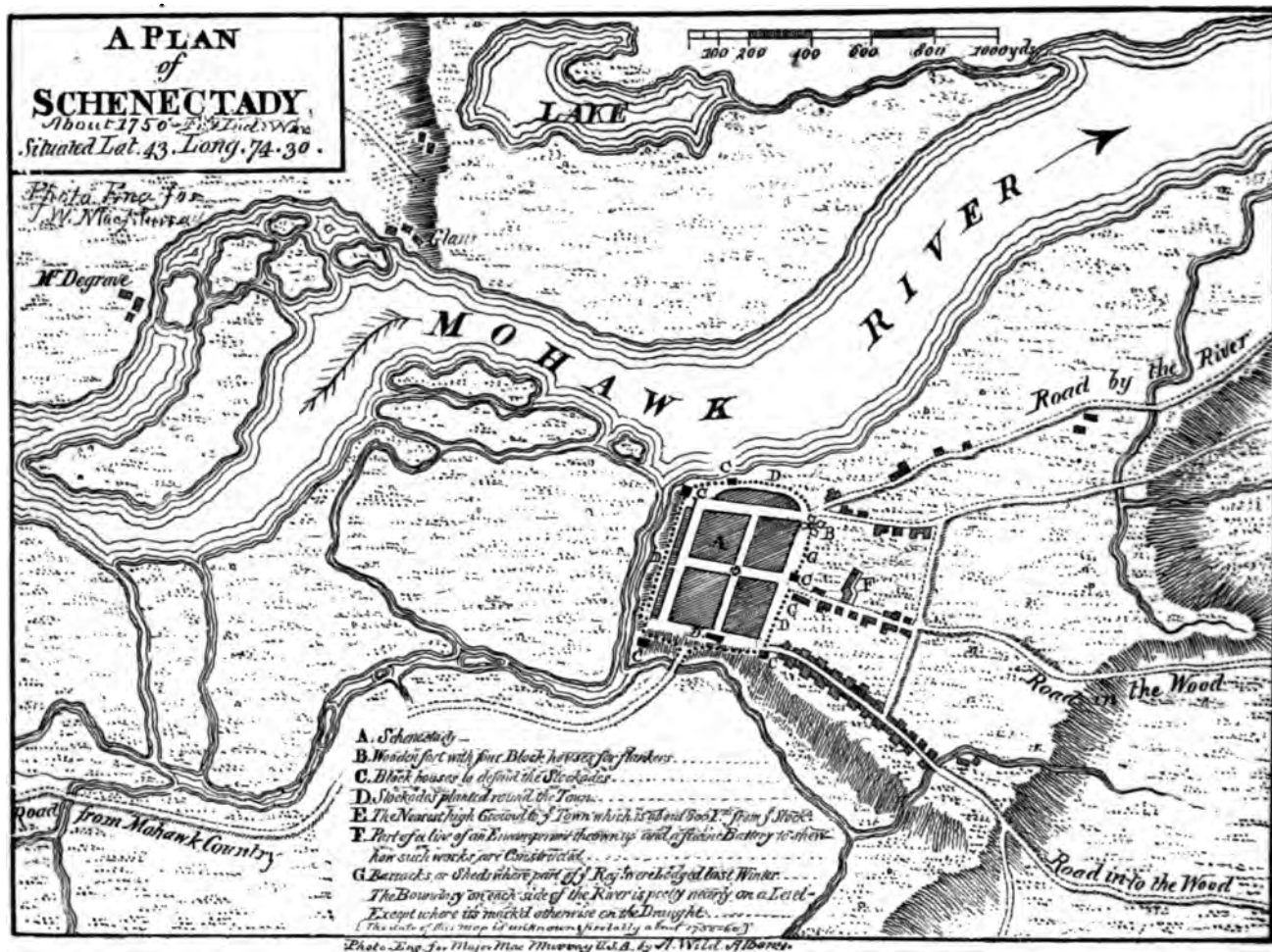
YANCES.

About the year 1798 there migrated to the barren pine plains adjoining the Albany and Schenectady turnpike, about one mile from this city, a tribe of people called Yances. In the reign of Queen Anne we date the first migration of the gypsies to this country. A tribe of them came over at that time with some German families, and settled in or near Kinderhook in this State. From thence proceeded the clan which settled in this vicinity.

This name, as it obtained among the early inhabitants of this vicinity, was Yances, so called after their patriarch, John Yonse. They were a race of persons with long, straight, black hair and dark complexions. They were generally well disposed, and the males made a precarious living by making baskets, selling berries—which grew abundantly at this time—and doing light work for the citizens of Schenectady, but never cultivated their land, nor worked strictly at anything; while the female portion of the tribe occupied themselves in spinning, picking berries and telling fortunes.

Some dwelt in caves which they dug at the foot of rising grounds, others in rude huts of their own construction. They were at first about forty strong, including men, women and children, but in the course of a few years they greatly increased in numbers, and about forty years ago there were about two hundred of them.

At present but a few of their descendants are living in this vicinity. Some families may be found living among the mountains around the villages in Schoharie County. There they are called the "Slughters."



INDIAN WARS ON THE BORDER, 1662-1743.

Down to the close of the French war in 1763, the Iroquois carried on an intermittent warfare with the French of Canada. All settlements in the valley of the upper Hudson were made on this river and the Mohawk. The danger line was along the banks of the Mohawk and the shores of the Hudson above Waterford.

During a period of more than seventy years—1688 to 1760—the English provinces were, more than half the time, in a state of war, or painful apprehension.

No formidable body of Frenchmen, it is true, ever crossed the Mohawk—1690—but parties of their Indian allies, in squads of five to twenty, were constantly sent out to skulk along the border and pick off unwary husbandmen. Every dwelling along this danger line was constructed for defense, as well as for habitation. Movable block-houses were placed in the field for temporary shelter, and the farmer labored with his musket by his side, yet,

in spite of every precaution suggested by experience, scarcely a year passed in which some households were not bereft of one or more of their members.

Less than four years after Schenectady was settled occurred the first alarm to the inhabitants.

M. De Courcelles, Governor of Canada, on the 29th December, 1665, began a march from Montreal with six hundred volunteers, "to seek out their inveterate ennemys called the Mohawke Indians, to take revenge upon them for the severall murders and spoyles which the barbarians had for many yeares exercised in Canada." The snow was four feet deep; the soldiers marched on snowshoes, while their provisions were drawn on "slight sledges" by mastiff dogs. On the 9th of February they encamped within two miles of Schenectady, having been misled by their guide. That evening "60 of their best Fusileers being led into an ambuscade by the Mohaks, lost 11 men besides divers others," who were wounded. Governor Courcelles applied to the inhabitants for provisions

which were supplied according to the "best accommodation ye poore village afforded," but refused shelter for his men, fearing if "hee had brought his weary and halfe starved people within the smell of a chimney corner," he could not keep them from straggling or running away.

Seven of his wounded were sent to Albany. "The Dutch boers carried to the camp such provisions as they had, especially peaz and bread, of which a good quantity was bought." On the 12th of February the French began their return to Canada.

Three years later, to wit, in 1669, another Indian battle was fought on the western borders of the town.

In August, Caughnawaga [Fonda], a stockaded village of the Mohawks, was attacked by the river Indians or Mahikanders. After an obstinate resistance the latter were repulsed and retired. The Mohawks descended the river in their canoes and attacked the retreating foe at a place called *Kinaquariones* and put them to flight.

From this time up to 1689, while the people lived in constant apprehension, there was really no outbreak. In this period of twenty years' peace Schenectady slowly gained in population and agricultural wealth and comforts. Some trade, too, was had surreptitiously with the Indians. During these years the French occasionally sent out marauding expeditions, which made necessary a gathering of the savages about Schenectady. They were given to drink, and were always a source of annoyance to the inhabitants.

In August, 1689, the Five Nations made a destructive raid upon Montreal, killing several hundred persons and holding the place until October. Retaliation was naturally to be expected. The border settlements, as winter approached, when relief from New York would be cut off, cast about for help.

The general apprehension of an attack by the French led to a kind of committee of safety, called "the Convention," which convened in Albany from time to time to watch the progress of events and prepare for defense. This convention was composed of the Mayor and Aldermen of the city and the magistrates and chief military officers of the country. They were unanimously opposed to Leisler, and would obey none of his orders. Many persons during the summer of 1689 meditated and prepared to flee to a place of greater safety, which led to a proclamation, given at the City Hall, in Albany, August 7, published by the Justices of the Peace, forbidding all persons to de-

part from the country. During September the convention was again held, the proceedings of which plainly show that the attack of the French on Schenectady, which took place the following February, was not unexpected.

Schenectady, equally with Albany, was rent by party spirit, the inhabitants being divided into Leislerians and anti-Leislerians.

Leisler promised the people the same privileges as Albany, to wit: those of trading with the Indians, hitherto forbidden them, and the right of bolting flour. This was a strong bid for public favor; but Adam Vrooman, who was addressed as Leisler's agent, very modestly and prudently declined the honor.

Early in November, 1689, news reached Albany "that Leysler is about to send up an armed force to take possession of the place and overthrow the government." Capt. Sander Glen, Jan Van Eps and Sweer Teunise Van Velsen, of Schenectady, were opponents of Leisler, and sustained the convention to the last, Capt. Glen being one of the eight men appointed by the Convention to sign articles with Melbourne, Leisler's agent.

On the 25th November Capt. Jonathan Bull arrived with eighty-seven men from Connecticut, and on the 29th Lieutenant Enos Talmage, of Capt. Bull's company, "marched with twenty-four men to Schinnectady to keep y^e Post as it was agreed upon by y^e five gentlemen appoint^d by y^e Convention and y^e Capt. Bull and Jochim Staats." December 9th was ordered as a day of fasting and prayer. All was confusion at Albany. Mr. Staats, who commanded Leisler's soldiers, would not submit to the convention and send ten of his men to Schenectady, as they wished; but went thither himself with some of his faction to stir up the people, so that the convention thought it necessary to send some one after him.

January 12, 1689-90, "while the convention was debating whether to submit to Joachim Staats as deputy of Leysler, a letter comes from Capt. Sander Glen, there Maj^r Justice of the Peace at Schinnectady, informing them how that there are five commissions come to Schinnectady from Capt. Leysler for five Justices of y^e Peace, brought thither by Jeronimus Wendel and Gerrit Luycasse [Wyn-gaard]; Y^e persons are Dowe Aukus, Ryer Jacobse [Schermerhorn], David Christoffelse, Myn-dert Wemp and Johannes Pootman; and a commission to call the people together, to choose new Capt., Lieut. and Ensigne and Town Court, and y^e y^e s^d five justices come here to-morrow to assist Mr. Joachim Staats and to enter upon there office."

" * * * At eleven o'clock at night they came within sight of the town (but) resolved to defer the assault until two o'clock in the morning. But the excessive cold admitted of no further delay.

"The town of Corlaer forms a sort of oblong with only two gates—one opposite the road we had taken—the other leading to Orange, which is only six leagues distant. Messieurs de Sainte Helène and de Mantet were to enter at the first, which the Squaws pointed out, and which in fact was found wide open. Messieurs d'Iberville and de Montesson took the left with another detachment, in order to make themselves masters of that leading to Orange. But they could not discover it, and returned to join the remainder of the party. A profound silence was everywhere observed, until the two commanders, who separated, at their entrance into the town, for the purpose of encircling it, had met at the other extremity.

"The signal of attack was given Indian fashion, and the whole force rushed out simultaneously. M. de Mantet placed himself at the head of a detachment, and reached a small fort where the garrison were under arms. The gate was burst in after a good deal of difficulty, the whole set on fire, and all who defended the place slaughtered.

"The sack of the town began a moment before the attack on the fort. Few houses made any resistance. M. de Montigny discovered some, which he attempted to carry sword in hand, having tried the musket in vain. He received two thrusts of a spear—one in the body and the other in the arm. But M. de Sainte Helène, having come to his aid, effected an entrance, and put every one who defended the place to the sword. The massacre lasted two hours. The remainder of the night was spent in placing sentinels and in taking some repose.

"The house belonging to the minister was ordered to be saved, so as to take him alive to obtain information from him; but as it was not known, it was not spared any more than the others. He was slain and his papers burnt before he could be recognized.

"At daybreak some men who were sent to the dwelling of Mr. Coudre [Coudre (?) Sander], who was major of the place, and who lived at the other side of the river. He was not willing to surrender, and began to put himself on the defensive, with his servants and some Indians; but as it was resolved not to do him any harm, in consequence of the good treatment that the French had formerly experienced at his hands, Mr. d'Iberville

and the Great Mohawk proceeded thither alone, promised him quarter for himself, his people, and his property, whereupon he laid down his arms, on parole, entertaining them in his fort, and returned with them to see the commandants of the town.

"In order to occupy the savages, who would otherwise have taken to drink and thus render themselves unable for defence, the houses had already been set on fire. None were spared in the town but one house belonging to Coudre [Sander Glen], and that of a widow [Bratt] who had six children, whither M. de Montigny had been carried when wounded. All the rest were consumed. The lives of between fifty and sixty persons—old men, women and children—were spared, they having escaped the first fury of the attack. Some twenty Mohawks were also spared, in order to show them that it was the English and not they against whom the grudge was entertained.

"The loss on this occasion in houses, cattle and grain amounts to more than four hundred thousand livres. There were upwards of eighty well built and well furnished houses in the town.

"The return march commenced with thirty prisoners. The wounded, who were to be carried, and the plunder, with which all the Indians and some Frenchmen were loaded, caused considerable inconvenience. Fifty good horses were brought away; sixteen of these only reached Montreal. The remainder were killed for food on the road. * * *

"Such, Madame, is the account of what passed at the taking of Corlaer. The French lost but twenty-one men, namely, four Indians and seventeen Frenchmen. Only one Indian and one Frenchman were killed at the capture of the town; the others were lost on the road."—Doc. Hist. N. Y., 1, 186.

A few days subsequent to the massacre at Schenectady, Pieter Schuyler, mayor, and Dirk Wessels Ten Broeck, recorder of Albany, and Kilian Van Rensselaer, *Patroon* of Rensselaerwyck, addressed the following appeal to the Governor (Bradstreet) and Council of Massachusetts. This letter, as well as one from Capt. Bull, was answered by the Governor and Council on the 27th of February.

"ALBANY y^e 15th day of feb^r, 1688.

"Hon^d Gent^l:"

"To our great greeffe and sorrow we must acquaint you with our deplorable condition, there having never y^e Like Dreadfull massacre and murthur been committed in these Parts of America, as hath been acted by y^e french and there Indians at Shinnectady 20 miles from Albanie Betwixt Sat-

urday and Sunday last, at 11 a clock at night. A companie of Two hundred french and Indians fell upon said village and murther'd sixty men women and children most Barbarously, Burning y^e Place and carried 27 along with them Prisoners, among which the Leif^t of Cap^t Bull Enos Talmadge and 4 more of sd company were killed & 5 taken Prisoners y^e Rest being Inhabitants and about 25 Persones there Limbs frozen in y^e flight.

"The cruelties committed at s^d Place no Penn can write nor Tongue expresse, y^e women bigg with childe Rip'd up and y^e children alive throwne into y^e flames, and there heads Dash'd in Pieces against the Doors and windows.

"But what shall we say we must Lay our hands upon our mouth and be silent. It is Gods will and Pleasure and we must submitt, it is but what our Sinns and Transgressions have Deserv'd. And since Generally humane things are Directed by outward means, so we must ascribe this sad misfortune to y^e factions and Divisions which were amongst y^e People and there great Dissobedience to there officers for they would Obey no Commands or keep any watch, so y^e y^e Enemie having Discovered there negligence and Security by there Praying maquase Indians (who were in s^d Place 2 or 3 Days before y^e attaque was made) came in and Broak open there verry doors before any Soule knew of it, y^e Enemy Divideing themselves in 3 severall companies came in at 3 severall Places no gate being shutt, and Seperated themselves 6 or 7 to a house and in this manner begunn to murther sparing no man till they see all y^e houses open and masterd, and so took what plunder they would, Loading 30 or 40 of y^e Best horses and so went away about 11 or 12 a clock at noon on Sabbath day." * * * * *

Your most humble and obed^t serv^t y^e Convention of Albanie

P. SCHUYLER, Mayor.

Dirck van Belle, Mayor
P. Schuyler

The Mayor, &c., of Albany their bre givinge acco^t of y^e ffrench & Indians cutting of a Town of English &c., many things & Dutch Feb., 1689."

[Mass. Archives, 239-246.]

The survivors of the massacre had become so discouraged by their late terrible experience, that it was seriously debated whether the settlement should not be abandoned. The frontiers were now so harassed by straggling parties of the enemy that the husbandmen could not safely plant and harvest their crops.

In the midst of these discouragements the Mohawks strove to dissuade them from abandoning their plantations, promising them aid, counseling them to fortify their village more substantially.

May 12, 1690, the "Commissioners for Albany" ordered that the "posts of Schanectede, Connestigieone and the Half Moone be forthwith supplied with proper numbers of men to defend the same." [Doc. Hist., II.]

In regard to the number of persons killed and carried away to Canada at the destruction of Schenectady, the best accounts agree substantially. The names of sixty persons massacred, and of twenty-seven captives, have been preserved among the historical documents in the office of the Secretary of State. The largest number of the slain resided, when living, on State street; hence the survivors called this street *Martelaer's straat*, in pious remembrance of their slaughtered relatives and neighbors, a name whose significance and sentiment are in striking contrast with the utter poverty of invention and good taste shown by their descendants in borrowing a name from Albany for their chief business street.

The following is the list of those killed, above referred to:

Myndert Wemp, Jan Van Eps, "his son and two of his children;" Sergt. Church, of Capt. Bull's company; Barent Janse (Van Ditmars) and son; Andries Arentse Bratt and child; Maria Viele, two children and negro woman servant; Maria Alolff, Sweer Teunise (Van Velsen) and wife; four negroes of Teunise, Antje Janz, Enos Talmidge, lieutenant of Capt. Bull's company; Henderson Meese Vrooman and Bartholomens Vrooman, "and two negroes of Henderson;" Gerrit Marcellis, wife and child; Robert Alexandier, soldier; Robert Heselung, Sander, "son of Gysbert Gerritse (Van Brakel);" Jan Roeloffse (son of Anneke Janse); Ralph Grant, a soldier; David Christoffelse, wife and four children; Jaris Aertse (Van der Baast), Johannes Potman and wife; Wm. Pieterse, Dominie Petrus Tassemaker; Frans Harmense (Van de Bogart); Engel Vrooman and child; Reynier Schaats and son; Daniel Andries "and George, two soldiers;" "a French girl prisoner among the Mohogs;" "a Maquase Indian," "Johannes, son of Symon Skermerhorn, and three negroes of Symon Skermerhorn."

Among those taken prisoners and carried to Canada, some died on the way there and some were afterward released and returned to Schenectady.

The following ballad, though without much literary merit, has some value for the facts set forth therein.

It was evidently written by a person belonging to the English garrison, stationed at Albany.

A BALLAD,

"In which is set forth the horrid cruelties practised by the French and Indians on the night of the 8th of last February. The which I did compose last night, in the space of one hour, and am now writing the morning of Fryday, June 12, 1690. W. W."

God prosper long our King and Queen,
Our lives & safeties all,
A sad misfortune once there did
Schenectady befall.

From forth the woods of Canada
The Frenchmen tooke their way
The people of Schenectady
To captivate and slay.

They march'd for two & twenty dais
All thro' the deepest snow ;
And on a dismal Winter Night
They stricke the Cruel Blow.

The lightsome sun that rules the Day
Had gone down in the West ;
And eke the drowsy Villagers
Had sought and found their reste.

They thought They were in Safetie all,
And dreamt not of the Foe ;
But att Midnight They all awoke,
In Wonderment & Woe.

For They were in their pleasant Beddes,
And soundelic sleeping, when
Each door was sudden open broke
By six or seven Men.

The Men and Women, Younge & Olde,
And eke the Girls and Boys,
All started up in great Affright,
Att the alarming Noise.

They then were murther'd in their Beddes,
Without shame or remorse ;
And soon the Floores and Streets were strew'd
With many a bleeding corse.

The Village soon began to Blaze,
Which shew'd the horrid sight :—
But, O, I scarce can Beare to Tell
The Mis'ries of that Night.

They threw the Infants in the Fire,
The Men they did not spare ;
But killed All which they could find
Tho' Aged or tho' Fair.

O Christe ! In the still Midnight air,
It sounded dismally,
The Women's Prayers, and the loud screams
Of their great Agony.

Methinks as if I hear them now
All ringing in my ear ;
The Shrieks and Groanes and Woefull Sighs,
They utter'd in their Fear.

But some ran off to Albany,
And told the dolefull Tale :
Yett, tho' We gave our cheerful aid,
It did not much avail.

And we were horribly afraid,
And shook with Terror, when
They told us that the Frenchmen were
More than a Thousand Men.

The news came on the Sabbath morn
Just att the Break of Day,
And with a companie of Horse
I galloped away.

But soone We found the French were gone
With all their great Bootye ;
And then their Trail We did pursue
As was our true Dutye.

The Mobaques joynd our brave Partye,
And followed in the chase
Till we came upp with the Frenchmen
Att a most likelye Place.

Our soldiers fell upon their Reare,
And killed twenty-five,
Our Young Men were so much enrag'd
They took scarce One alive.

D'Aillebout Then did commande,
Which were but Theevish Rogues,
Else why did they consent and goe
With Bloodye Indian Dogges ?

And Here I end the long Ballad
The Which you just have redde ;
I wish that it may stay on earth,
Long after I am dead.

WALTER WILIE.

ALBANY, 12th of June, 1690.

INDIAN WARS ON THE BORDER, 1662-1713.

The destruction of Schenectady and the uncertainty of future safety of the border settlers in the vicinity of that village awakened in their minds serious doubts as to the expediency of rebuilding their dwellings and putting seed into the ground. To reassure the courage of the people, the Convention at Albany passed the following resolution, on the 22d February, 1690 :

Resolved, That for y^e p^rservation of there maj^{ty} Intrest in these parts & y^e Secureing of there Subjects in this time of war wth y^e french, y^e all means be used to Perswade all y^e maquase to come & live & Plant at Schinnectady, lately Destroyed by y^e french and there Indians w^h will be a means y^e y^e winter corn sowed there may be reaped & y^e Indians in Readinesse to join with our forces upon any occasion if y^e enemy should come.—[Doc. Hist., II, p. 90.]

The Five Nations, too, in a council held at Albany, May 3, spoke encouraging words :

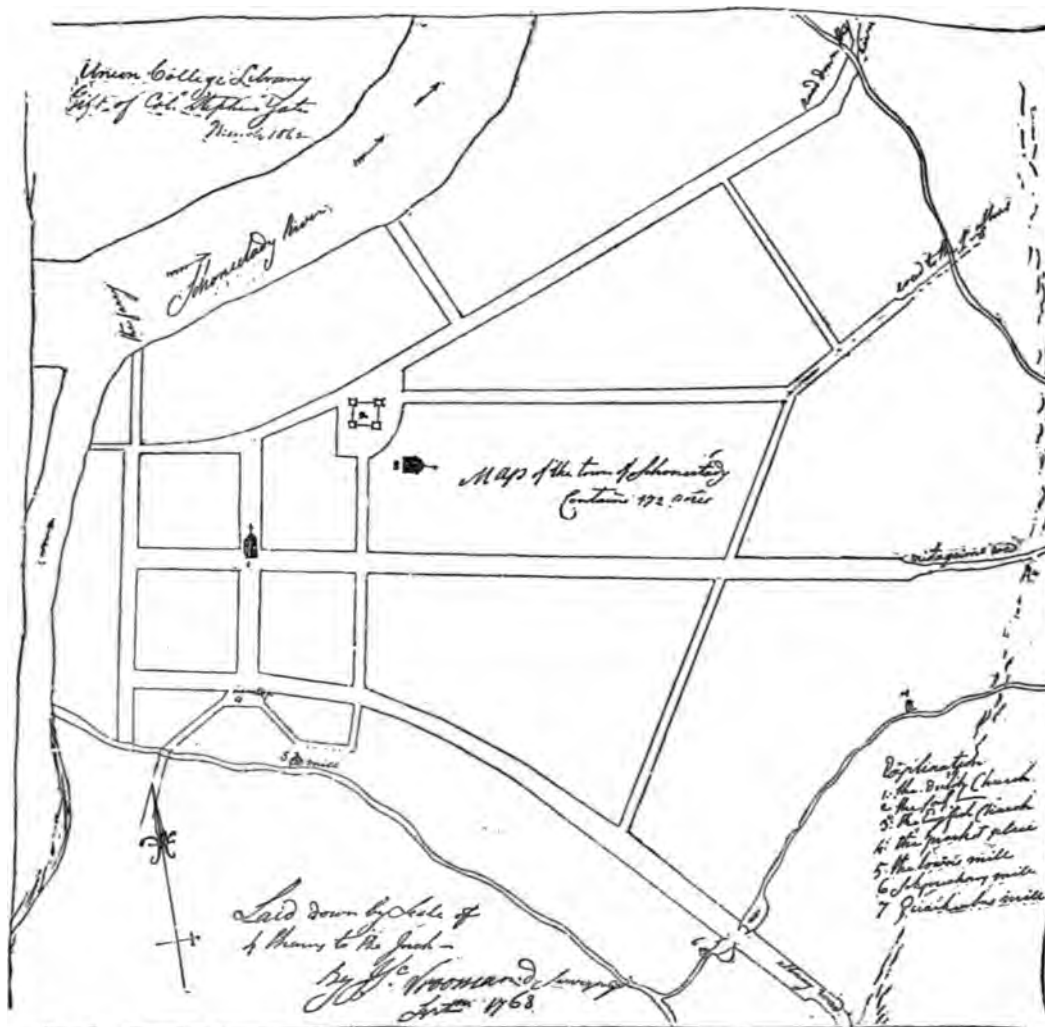
"Brother Corlaer, be no wise discouraged, but make your fort strong (as we have our castles) at Schenectady, and maintain a garrison there, that your Corne may be preserved, & reap your harvest; also send for your wives and children from New York and encourage them that we shall be safe, and fear not, * * * The words of Diadorus are ended."

So impoverished had Albany and Schenectady become that aid was called for from Connecticut for "fournishing the souldiers with provisions, Shenectady being destroyed and most of the out plantations deserted, that your hon^{rs} would be pleased to send a supply of an hundred barrels of

porke or beefe equivalent for maintaining their Maj^{ty} Forces."

On the 9th June, 1690, four persons of those who had been captured by the French and escaped from Canada arrived in Albany, to wit: Klyn Isack [Swits], of Schenectady, and his eldest son

Symon; Ryck Claessen [Van Vranken], of Niskayuna, and one of Captain Bull's soldiers taken at the destruction of Schenectady. Four more captives taken at the same place were brought in, March, 1691, by a "party of Christians and maquase."



MAP OF THE TOWN OF SCHENECTADY.

In the beginning of June, 1691, Gov. Sloughter, who succeeded Andros, visited Albany and Schenectady to inspect the defenses and hold a council with the Five Nations, and, on the 11th of July, Gov. Sloughter wrote to the Governors of the other Provinces that he had just returned from Albany, where he "found our Plantations and Schenectady almost ruined. I have garrisoned Schenectady and Halfe Moon with some of the 100 fusileers raised by our Assembly."

Again, August 6, he says: "I found Albany full of disorder, the people ready to disert it;

about 150 farms deserted & destroyed by the French."

October 5, 1691, "At a council held at Fort William Henry [N. Y.]

"This Board having the Garrison of Schenectady under consideration, it is thought convenient to remove the 4 guns from there to Albany, and that Petardoes be placed in their steade."

Late in the year 1691 another of the prisoners taken at Schenectady the year before was brought back by an Oneida Indian, who was rewarded in "Duffels and Rom" to the amount of £2 2s.

In January, 1692, Cornelis Van Slyck, Harmen Van Slyck and Hendrick Janse went out from Schenectady with the Maquase upon the *Brandwach*, toward Canada, Captain Sander Glen furnishing "sno shoes" for them.

In February came an alarm from Albany to Governor Fletcher that "350 French and 200 Indians had come within 36 miles of Schenectady."

The Governor proposed to "detach three hundred men out of the city regiment and adjacent counties to be transported to Esopus by water," from whence they were to be sent on to Albany and Schenectady by horses.

In May there was a new alarm, and Major Ingoldsby visited Albany, where the officers "represented that they need a force of 400 men on this frontier, 200 at Albany, 50 each at Schenectady, Canastigione & Half Moon, & 50 to go out with 100 Indians as constant scouts in the woods."

In October, Governor Fletcher visited Schenectady and put it in some posture of defense for the coming winter.

In August, 1692, a new expedition was fitted out at Schenectady, consisting of 350 Indians of the Five Nations under Canachkorie to attack Canada. The expense of the outfit was £54 3s. 5d. Among other things furnished was four ells of "red and blew" ribbons "to tye in his eares."

P. Davitse was allowed nine shillings for making two gun-stocks; Jellis Funda, nineteen shillings and six pence for making four gun-stocks, and Barent Mynderse and Christian Smith, £7 6s. 8d. for repairing arms for the Indians.

While at Schenectady the "Mayor & the Rest" stayed with Johannes Glen. Hille Van Olinda, their interpreter, made two great belts of wampum, for which she received £2 8s.

There was furnished for the expedition 600 lbs. of "beefe & pork, besides the four quarters of a small beasts," amounting to £1 16s., 25 skipples of pease @ 2s. 6d., and 24 loaves of bread @ 7d.

A large quantity of wampum belts was sent along to draw over the Praying Indians of Canada. The zewant for two great belts cost £3 12s.

So impoverished had the people of Schenectady become, that a tax of only £29 7s. (\$73.33) was considered too great a burden for the whole township, and they petitioned for a release of the same, which petition was, October 11, 1692, granted, "*nemine contradicente*."

"In the expedition the English lost four soldiers and four Indians, twelve wounded. Killed of the enemy, 33, including their captain-commandant

and twenty other officers, and two of their commanding Indians, and rescued forty or fifty prisoners."

During the winter of 1693 and the summer of 1694 there were no important movements on either side; the French using their best endeavor to make peace with the Five Nations; the English striving to counteract their projects. During the summer of 1695 there were constant conflicts between the Five Nations and the French, but the anticipated raid during the winter of 1696-1697 did not take place, though in the spring of 1697 small parties appeared on the Mohawk, doing such mischief as opportunity favored.

On the 20th September, 1697, articles of peace were signed between France and Great Britain, called the peace of Ryswick. For nearly ten years the Mohawk valley had been the scouting ground of the two hostile parties. The husbandmen had labored with his musket by his side, and made his dwelling literally his castle.

The news of peace did not reach Canada until May, 1698, and then by the way of New York in a communication from Governor Bellomont.

Although peace had been declared between the two nations, the French of Canada still threatened war against the Five Nations, and Governor Bellomont prepared to espouse the cause of his Indian allies by calling upon the trained bands of Albany and Schenectady to hold themselves in readiness to march with the regulars. The dangers and alarms of these times are clearly stated by Governor Bellomont in a letter to the Lords of Trade, dated 24th October, 1698.

After the proclamation of peace, early in 1698, the fortifications and garrisons on the border were greatly neglected. May 25, 1700, Governor Bellomont wrote to the Lords of Trade "that at the very time they [the French] are fortifying against us and keeping up the same number of soldiers still, which they did all the war, we on our part let our wooden forts fall to the ground, and reduce our pittance of soldiers, and neither mind paying nor recruiting them."

On the 29th August, 1700, Governor Bellomont held a conference with the sachems of the Five Nations at Albany, to whom he made the following complaint:

"I have some complaints at this time made to mee of mischief lately done by some of your people in killing their cattle above Schanegtade. I desire you will inquire into the matter, and take such order that reparation may be done the people that have been so wronged." * * *

From 1697 to 1701 there was peace between England and France, consequently between Canada and the English Provinces. Nevertheless the constant intrigues and threats of the French toward the Five Nations made it necessary for the Provincial authorities of New York to use persistent and vigilant circumspection to counteract these intrigues.

Governor Bellomont died 5th March, 1701. Already rumors were rife in New York of a prospective war between France and England, on which account Colonel William Smith, President of the Council and *ex officio* Governor of the province, in writing to the Lords of Trade, "begs leave humbly to reapeate the state and condition of the forts at Albany and Schenectady, which are almost totally decayed & unserviceable."

In 1709 orders were sent from England to Governor Lovelace to prepare for an attack upon Canada and Nova Scotia. It was proposed to send out a naval squadron and five regiments of regular troops to Boston, there to be joined by 1,200 of New England.

These troops were to attack Quebec, while 1,500 men marching by way of Albany were to attack Montreal.

The Five Nations and River Indians were to assist. This expedition was to be commanded by Colonel Francis Nicholson and Colonel Samuel Vetch, but like the attempt in 1691 proved a miserable failure. The English ministry, instead of sending the promised armament to their American provinces, sent it to Portugal.

The Five Nations, during the war (1701-13) between France and England, being neutral, became corrupted, and less firmly attached to the latter.

In 1711 another attempt was made to conquer Canada, as abortive as the others, the naval expedition proving a failure. As a consequence, the French Indians commenced their skulking attacks upon the frontiers, killing two families in Schaghtakook.

January 1, 1712, Governor Hunter wrote to the Lords of Trade: "All is quiet at present upon the frontier."

From this time until the "old French War" in 1744 there was peace between France and England, and consequently between Canada and the colonies.

In 1715 the township of Schenectady had two military companies of foot, consisting of about sixty men each, including officers.

Although the peace of Utrecht brought comparative quiet to the border settlements of this province,

the Five Nations still distrusted the French and their Indians, and stood prepared to defend themselves against their attacks.

The English sympathized with them and furnished them every aid and help short of an armed force. They built their forts, supplied them with arms and ammunition, repaired their muskets and tomahawks, clothed them with duffels and strouds, and in times of scarcity sent them corn. In many cases the smiths and carpenters sent there were citizens of Schenectady.

In 1711 Governor Hunter, the better to protect his faithful allies, the Iroquois, contracted with Gerrit Symonse [Veeder], Barent Vrooman, Hendrick Vrooman, John Wemp and Arent Van Petten, carpenters, of Schenectady, for £1,000, to build two forts in the Indian country, one for the Mohawks, 150 feet square and 12 feet high, of logs one foot square, with a block house at each angle two stories high and 24 feet square; also a chapel within the fort, 24 feet square; the other, for the Onondagas, of like dimensions.

In 1724 Harmen Vedder was appointed captain of a party of smiths stationed among the Senecas, at a salary of £50, and Andries Brat at £15, Hendrick Wemp at £25, and Harmen Van Slyck at £25, as smiths among the Onondagas.

In 1726 Joseph Van Lice, of Schenectady, presented a bill to the Governor for seven months' service as smith in the Senecas' country, for which he claimed £20.

At a conference between Governor Burnet and the six sachems at Albany, 9th Sept., 1726, a Seneca sachem said:

* * * "It is three years ago that you offer'd us a smith, and told us we might look for one to our minds; we found one there who pleased us very well. It was Myndert Wemp; when his time was expired he told the sachims that he was going home, whereupon they desired him to come again, because he was good and charitable to the poor; therefore we desire he may be our smith and go with us when we go home. We desire also an Armourer who can mend our Locks and Arms; such a man lives at Schenectady."

"5 October, 1728.

"Brother Corlaer:

"It has been customary when we came here towards the fall that a Smith and an Armourer to be sent to work for you, but then to work in our Country; we beg you to grant us now that Joseph Van Lice and Hendrick Wemp may be Ordered to go up with us, who are fit persons for our Occasion."

His Excellency answered:

"I will order a Smith and an Armourer to be sent to work for you, but then I Expect that you will not suffer the french Smith who is now there, nor any other from Canada, to reside among you for the Future."

A Sinneke sachem said:

"Brother Corlaer:

"We desired a Smith and an Armourer, but we do not hear further of it. You spoke about a french Smith, who is now with us; he can Make no work, for he is an old man, and can scarce see. So we beg again that Joseph Van Lize and Hendrick Wemp may go up with us. We would fain have the Smith and Armourer go with us now, that we may be surē of them, otherwise it may be neglected."

His Excellency answered:

"Brethren:

"I will give Effectual orders to the Commissioners to send a Smith and an Armourer with you to work in your country."

THE OLD FRENCH WAR, 1744-1748.

The Old French War, so called to distinguish it from that of 1753, was declared by Louis XV, on March 15, 1744, and accepted by England March 29. It was two months after before the news reached New England, although known a month earlier by the French of Canada. To secure the friendship and active aid of the Six Nations, the Governor of New York called a council of the chiefs of the confederacy, who met at Albany, June 18, 1744, and "renewed, strengthened and brightened the covenant chain that had so long tied them and the subjects of his Majesty, the great king, their father, in mutual ties of friendship."

Although inclining to peace, they promised in the strongest terms to stand by their friends if attacked. During this war, as in the other preceding it, the French and their allies were the most actively aggressive, sending out, almost daily, small parties of their Indians to annoy and distress the frontier settlements, and bring back such plunder and captives as they could find. The points of attack in this province were settlements along the Mohawk and Hudson, particularly Saratoga, Schenectady and Albany and the outlying places.

No family was safe unless protected by block-house or palisade; no man was exempt from military duty save by age or infirmity. In Schenectady and Albany each able-bodied man kept watch and ward every third or fourth night. French and

English reports also give sad accounts of shocking barbarities practiced on both sides by skulking parties of savages and white men. French reports clearly show the cruelties practiced by these two Christian nations, who rewarded their savage allies in proportion to the number of scalps returned.

The French and their savages made war upon the almost undefended frontier settlers, who were taken by surprise and practically unprepared.

The distress occasioned by this war is clearly set forth by the following petition of the inhabitants of Albany for relief, made to the Provincial Assembly, July 27, 1747.

The sufferings of Schenectady were even greater, because more exposed, more impoverished and less secure :

"* * * That the inhabitants of the corporation of the city of Albany are in great misery and distress by reason of the present war with France, and with the Indians in their alliance.

"That the inhabitants of the said city, ever since the commencement of the war, by their frequent watching, have been very much taken off from themselves and families : That every man of our corporation has been obliged to attend in person, or pay a hired man in their stead, upon watch and ward every third or fourth night during the whole time, excepting a small interval of time in the spring the duty was demanded only every fourth night ; but now, and for some time past, for the safety of this frontier and the poor inhabitants, we are obliged again to come upon a fourth night : That our corporation, by reason of the present war, are indebted * * * * for the supplying of fire, wood and candles for the night watches, and for powder and ball for the poorest of the inhabitants, * * * * besides what the inhabitants have done by a voluntary taxing themselves for providing and setting up new stockades, where the old ones were gone to decay."

While the people of Schenectady were striving to protect their borders from the attack of the enemy they were called upon to send men to Oswego.

The following answer of Col. Jacob Glen disclosed a sad state of morals at that important fortress :

COL. SCHUYLER : It is impossible to procure men for going to Oswego, especially when John Vischer remains there. John Baptist [Van Eps, the interpreter] says, if a hundred pounds was offered him over and above his wages, [he] would not remain a year under his command.

JACOB GLEN.

SCHENECTADY, Sept. y^e 8, 1747.

Glen, in a previous letter, says the officers at Oswego are drunkards.

During the year 1747 Capt. Tiebout's company of foot was stationed at Schenectady.

THE BEUKENDAAL MASSACRE.

As the war drew to a close, in 1748, Schenectady met with the severest loss it had suffered at any one time since the year 1690. This is generally called the *Poependal massacre*. It was, however, in no sense a massacre like that of 1690, except perhaps in the killing of the first victims, but a stand up and hand to hand fight in Indian fashion, in which the whites were the attacking party and, on that account, suffered more severely than the savages. About twenty of the former were killed and some thirteen or more made prisoners; of the losses of the latter we have no sufficient accounts.

Beyond tradition the accounts of this skirmish are meager and uncircumstantial.

A brief letter to Col. William Johnson, written by Albert Van Slyck, July 21, 1748, three days after the affair, is the only semi-official narrative we have by one who was in the fight.

"From the details preserved in this letter, it appears that a party of men from Schenectady, the leader of whom was Daniel Toll, had been dispatched to some place in the vicinity to bring in a number of horses, which was surprised by a party of the enemy, whose presence in the neighborhood was neither known nor suspected.

"The firing being heard by Adrian Van Slyck, a brother of the writer of the account, who seems to have resided at a distance from the town, he sent a negro man to the latter place to give the alarm and obtain reinforcements. Four parties of armed men successively repaired to the scene of action, the first of which was composed of the New England lieutenant, with some of his men, and five or six young lads, accompanied by Daniel Van Slyck, another brother. The second party was led by Ackes Van Slyck, and some men, how many of either party is not stated.

"Adrian Van Slyck followed next, at the head of a party of New York levies; but on reaching the scene of action, where Ackes, with inferior numbers, was holding the enemy at bay, the levies all fled in the most cowardly manner.

"The fourth party was composed of Albert Van Slyck (the writer of the letter), Jacob Glen and several others, on the approach of whom the enemy drew off, leaving Adrian among the dead." The letter adds: "It grieves me, I not being com-

mander, that when we went Garret Van Antwerp would suffer no more to accompany the party."

The second account, written by Giles F. Yates, Esq., and published in the *Schenectady Democrat and Reflector*, April 22, 1836, was gathered from tradition then floating about among the aged people of that day:

"In the beginning of July, 1748, Daniel Toll and his servant Ryckert went in search of some stray horses at Beukendal. * * * They soon heard, as they supposed, the trampling of horses; but this sound proved to be that of quoits with which some Indians were playing. Mr. Toll discovered his danger too late, and fell, pierced by bullets. Ryckert escaped, reached Schenectady and told the news of the death of his master and the presence of the enemy.

"In less than an hour about sixty volunteers were on their march to Beukendal. The greater part of these were young men, and such was their zeal that they would not wait until the proper authorities had called out the militia. * * *

"Without discipline or experience, and even without a leader, they hastened to the Indian camp.

"Those in advance of the main body, before they reached the enemy, were attracted by a singular sight. They saw a man resembling Mr. Toll sitting near a fence in an adjoining field and a crow flying up and down before him.

"On coming nearer, they discovered it to be the corpse of Mr. Toll, with a crow attached to it by a string.

"This proved to be a stratagem of the Indians to decoy their adversaries. The Schenectadians fell, alas! too easily into the snare laid for them, and were in a few moments surrounded by the Indians who had been lying in ambush. Thus taken by surprise, they lost many of their number, and some were taken prisoners before they could make good their retreat.

"They, however, succeeded in reaching the house of Mr. De Graaf, in the neighborhood, which had been for some time deserted. (This house is still standing.) But, while retreating, they continued to fire upon their enemy. On reaching Mr. De Graaf's house, they entered, bolted the doors and ascended to the second floor. Here they tore off all the boards near the eaves, and through the opening thus made fired with success at the savages, and succeeded in keeping them at bay. In the meantime Dirck Van Vorst, who had been left in the charge of two young Indians, effected his escape.

"The two youngsters were anxious to see the fight and secured their prisoner by tying him to a tree, and left him alone. He succeeded in getting his knife from his pocket and cutting the cord with which he was bound. On the approach of the Schenectady militia under Col. Jacob Glen, the party in Mr. De Graaf's house were relieved from their perilous situation, and the enemy took up their line of march for Canada.

"On this occasion there were thirty-two citizens killed (?); of these we are able to give the names of Jacob Glen (cousin of Col. Glen), Peter Vrooman, John Darling, Adam Conde, ——— Van Antwerpen, Cornelius Viele, Nicholas De Graaf and Adrian Van Slyck; wounded, Ryer Wemp, ——— Robinson and ——— Wilson; prisoners, Abraham De Graaf and his son William, John Phelps, Harman Veeder and Lewis Groot.

"The bodies of De Graaf and Glen were found lying in close contact with their savage antagonists, with whom they had wrestled in deadly strife.

"The corpses were brought to Schenectady the evening of the massacre and deposited in the large barn of Abraham Mabee, being the identical one now standing on the premises of Mrs. Benjamin, in Church street. The relatives of the deceased repaired thither to claim their departed kindred and remove them for interment."

The news of this battle reached Albany in the evening of the same day, and by midnight Lieut. Chew, with one hundred English and two hundred friendly Indians, were on the march for the scene of action, but to no other purpose than as showing their willingness to meet an emergency of this kind.

From the accounts it is certain that the presence of the Indians was not suspected until the first shot; that Capt. Daniel Toll was the first victim; that the alarm was given by his negro Ryckert; that a company of Connecticut levies, under Lieut. John Darling, accompanied and followed by squads of the inhabitants, marched to the scene, and that, after a hot engagement, the Indians retreated, leaving twenty of the whites dead and taking away thirteen or fourteen prisoners, besides the wounded.

Considering the number of whites engaged, their loss was very severe, amounting probably to one-third of their force.

The following is the fullest list of killed and missing that can now be given:

KILLED—John A. Bradt, Johannes Marinus, Peter Vrooman, Daniel Van Antwerpen, Cornelius Viele, Jr., Nicolaas De Graaf, Adrian Van Slyck,

Jacob Glen, Jr., Adam Conde, J. P. Van Antwerpen, Frans Vander Bogart, Capt. Daniel Toll, Lieut. John Darling and 7 of his soldiers; in all, 20 men.

WOUNDED—Ryer Wemp, ——— Robinson, Dirk Van Vorst and ——— Wilson.

MISSING—Prisoners, John Phelps, Lewis Groot, Johannes Seyer Vrooman, Frank Connor, Harman Veeder, Isaac Truax, Albert John Vedder and 6 soldiers; in all, 13 men.

After the close of hostilities, Governor Clinton sent Lieut. Stoddert to Montreal to arrange for an exchange of prisoners. With Capt. Anthony Van Schaick he went into the Indian country to recover the captives, but with indifferent success. Among those who returned with Lieut. Stoddert were Capt. Anthony Van Schaick, John Vrooman, Peter Vashborough [Vosburgh], Albert Vedder and Francis Conner. Efforts were made to induce others to return, but without success; of these were Rachel Quackenbos, Simon Fort and Philip Phillipsen. Rachel Quackenbos abjured the English religion, and Lieut. Stoddert could not persuade her to return. Fort and Phillipsen also desired to remain with the Iroquois; the former belonged by adoption to a sister of a chief named Agonareche. She refused to give him up at any price. Capt. Van Schaick offered six hundred livres for Fort, without succeeding in obtaining him. On the contrary, so determined was his squaw owner to retain him, that she said she would obey the French commandant and deliver him up, but that she and her husband would follow him, and he should not reach home alive. Lieut. Stoddert left Canada on the 28th of June, 1750, with 24 prisoners.

FORTIFICATIONS AND GARRISONS.

All considerable settlements on the upper Hudson and Mohawk rivers were from the first protected by wooden walls. Though never attacked nor even seriously threatened by the Iroquois or Mohicans, there were but few short periods down to the close of the French war (1763) when they were not subject to frequent alarms from the French or their Indian allies from Canada.

The method of fortification was by stockades, which the abundance of timber at their very doors made a cheap and ready protection. Guns were only used for defense, attacks being always made by the musket. The stockade consisted of a series of posts or logs, from 15 to 18 feet long and 12 inches or more thick, sharpened at one end and hewed flat on opposite sides.

Pine was usually chosen, because most abundant and easily worked.

The line of stockade being marked out, a trench three feet deep was dug; the posts were set therein, the flattened sides together, and the earth shoveled

back and rammed against them. To strengthen the top, two adjoining posts were bored and fastened together with oaken trenails. At the angles, gates and other important points, block-houses for the shelter of the garrison and guards were built, and within



the stockade all around was a free space, called the *Roudweg*, of sufficient width for the patrol to march.

In addition to this outer circle of fortification, in Albany and Schenectady there was a fort in one of the angles of the latter place surrounded by a double row of high palisades, furnished with barracks for the garrison, platforms, guns, lookouts, etc. And in later times, when Schenectady became a depot for men and materials, there were barracks outside the walls. In 1765 the troops were posted along the east side of Ferry street, from Union to the Episcopal church; in 1762, on the south side of Union street, from Ferry to Mrs. Colon Clute's house; in the Revolutionary war, on the south side of Union street, from Lafayette eastwardly to Quackenbush street.

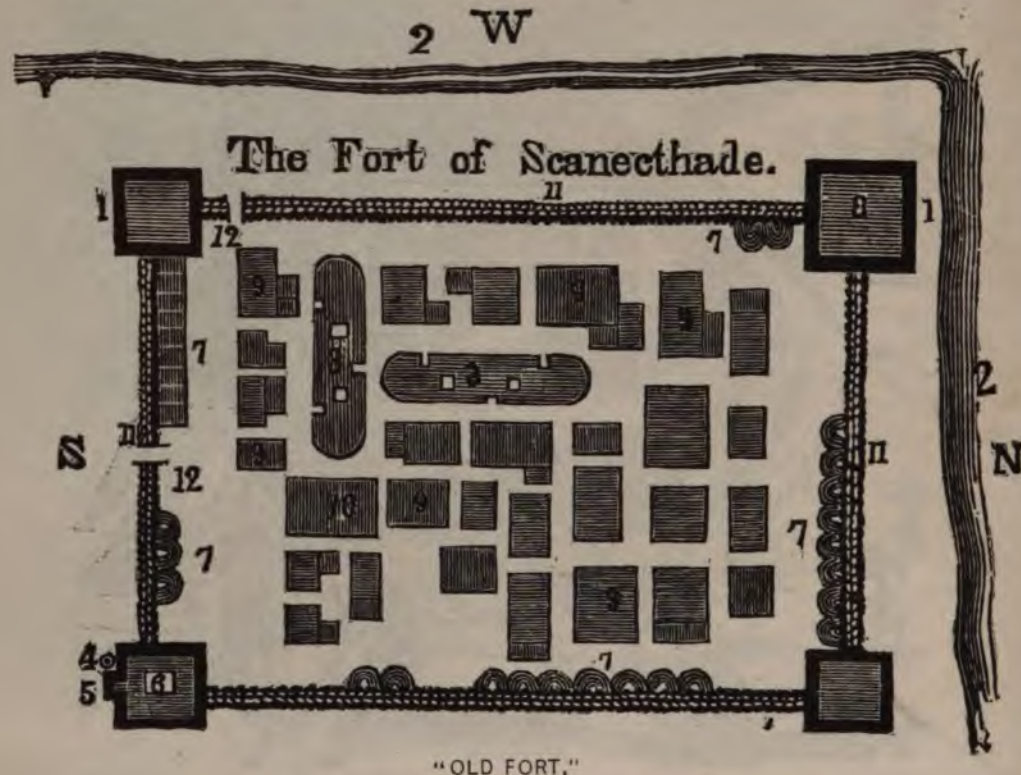
For protection and safety Schenectady was admirably placed, being surrounded with water and marsh on three sides and open only to the southeast, from which side the inhabitants had little to fear.

The first settlers, though their land lay elsewhere, built their habitations mainly together for their better protection. Doubtless, as soon after the settlement in 1662 as it could conveniently be done, the village was stockaded. Starting at State street, the line ran along the east side of Ferry to about the gate of the Episcopal church; then in a straight line to the north side of Front, a little beyond Washington street; then southerly and parallel to the same to State; and lastly, along the same twenty-eight feet south thereof to Ferry street or Mill lane. This was the original plot inclosed and contained most of the houses of the first settlers.

The south and west lines remained substantially the same down to the time of their extinction soon after the Revolutionary war. The front and Washington street lines were later moved north and west to the river bank, and the Ferry street line some time after 1765 was carried southeasterly to where is now the New York Central railroad depot, and thence northerly through the Dutch church burying ground to the river bank.

GATES.—In 1690 it was said in the French account of the village that there were but two gates, one at the north end of Church street, called the "north gate," the other at State. This was, doubtless, at the junction of State and Church streets, and opened out to the roads through Mill lane and

Water street, leading to the bouwlands and to the Mohawk country. In later times there were others at Front and Union streets. The foundations of the gates and guardhouses where Ferry crosses State and Union streets were exposed in laying the water pipes in 1871.



"OLD FORT."

By Rev. John Miller. (Original in British Museum.)

EXPLANATION.—1, 1, Block Houses. 2, 2, Rivers running beside ye fort. 3, 3, Indians' wigwams. 4, Flag staff. 5, Centry box. 6, Spy loft. 7, 7, 7, Sties for hogs. 8, The Block House designed for a church. 9, 9, Those and others like them houses. 10, A great barn. 11, 11, The treble stockadoes. 12, 12, The Fort Gates.

FORTS.—Schenectady was so important a post for the protection of the Province against the incursions of the Canadians that for the first hundred years of its existence it was deemed necessary to strengthen it by a fort and garrison.

It is believed, from references in the records, that the first block-house was in the north angle of the stockade at or near the junction of Front and Washington streets. This was destroyed in 1690 by the French, at which time it was garrisoned by a small detachment under Lieut. Enos Talmage, from Capt. Jonathan Bull's company, then stationed at Albany. These troops were Connecticut men. The magazine stood on or near the lot of Mrs. Willard, then belonging to Capt. Sander Glen.

A second was built in 1690 between Washington street and the river, opposite the west end of

State street, covering the lot of *Kleine Isaack* (that is, Isaac Swits), who with his son Cornelis was carried away by the French to Canada. On his return from captivity next year he found his homestead occupied by soldiers, his orchard cut down, and his home utterly ruined. He repeatedly petitioned for remuneration for his losses, but it was not until 1708 that his son received a patent for 1,000 acres of land in Niskayuna as a recognition of his father's claim.

The second fort was a large and spacious inclosure surrounded by "a triple stockade, a new block-house at every angle and in each block-house two great guns." It contained twenty-eight huts for inhabitants of the village, two wigwams for Indians, a large barn and styes for hogs.

At a court-martial held at Schenectady, August 7, 1691, upon a soldier named George Castleton,

it was proved that he quarreled with a fellow soldier named Desvallous about some beer ; the latter struck the former with a stick, whereupon Castleton, drawing his sword, thrust it into his side, causing almost instant death. The facts of the case were mainly proved by persons living within the fort. The culprit was adjudged guilty of manslaughter, burnt in the hand and banished the Province.

If Miller's drawing of this fort be correct, it must have extended quite across the west end of the village from State to Front streets, and included much of the land between Washington street and the Binne kil. The block-house in the south angle covered Swits' lot.

The renewal of the stockadoes, which, being made of pine logs, lasted but five or six years, became very burdensome to the inhabitants of the village after its destruction in 1690. Having built a new fort in 1690, they were ordered to renew the palisades in 1695. On this occasion Reyer Schermerhorn refused to cut and draw his proportion of the logs; it may be because living at the mills he thought himself exempt from his burdensome service or that his quota was too large. Thereupon Justice Johannes Sanderse Glen fined him twelve shillings, and continuing contumacious, Governor Fletcher, on the 9th of April, 1698, directed the sheriff of Albany County to bring him before the Council in New York to answer for his conduct. On the 30th he appeared before the Council, and "stood upon his vindication, whereupon he was committed to answer at the next Supreme Court, and Col. Courtland was desired to take bond with sureties for his appearance, and that he be of good behaviour in the mean time."

In the winter of 1695-6 the garrison at Schenectady consisted of a detachment under command of Lieutenant Bickford, from the companies of Captains James Weems and William Hyde, stationed at Albany.

"On the 10th Jan., about 12 of the clock at night deserted the whole guard except one, and others to the number of sixteen broak through the north west Block house next the water side." [Binne kil.]

"They drew the guns of both powder and shott. The Lieutenant about two o'clock discovering their desertion, notified by express Col. Richard Ingholdsby, at Albany, and with ten volunteers of the inhabitants and eleven soldiers, started in pursuit. The sergeant and seven red coats soon gave out and were left behind. At four in the afternoon the lieutenant and his 14 men came up with the

16 deserters ; ordering them to lay down their arms they answered with a volley, and both sides continued to fire until five of the deserters were killed and two wounded when the remainder surrendered."

The following were the volunteers from Schenectady who accompanied Lieutenant Bickford in his hazardous enterprise : "Harmen Van Slyck, ensigne of the trained bands of Schenectide, and Gerryt Simons Veeder, Peter Simons Veeder, Albert Veeder, Gerryt Gysbert [Gysbertse Van Brakel], Jan Danielse Van Antwerpen, Dirck Groot, Jonas De Ray, John Wemp, Daniel Mutchcraft [Mascraft] and Thomas Smith."

At a court-martial held in Schenectady April 21, the survivors of the deserting party were accounted guilty and condemned to be shot.

The commander of the garrison who succeeded Lieutenant Bickford, in the spring of 1696, was Lieutenant Daniel Hunt, from the garrison at Albany.

After the second fort had been occupied about fifteen years, 1690 to 1705, the block-houses were abandoned, and "Queens new Fort" was built at the east angle of the stockade. This was the "Old Fort," about which all the traditions of the people cluster.

It was at first simply a double or triple stockade, 100 feet square, with bastions or block-houses at the angles. In 1735 it was rebuilt in a more substantial manner of timbers on a stone foundation. The four curtains were "about 76 feet each, and the four bastions or block-houses 24 feet square."

In 1754, at the beginning of the French war, it contained one 6 and one 9 pounder on carriages, but no "port holes in the curtain to fire them."

On the 15th October following the inhabitants of Schenectady again petitioned the Governor to build a fort in the village, signed by Daniel Campbell, Arent Bratt, Abm. Glen and others.

The open space on which this fort stood, at the junction of Ferry, Front and Green streets, was about 264 feet by more than 200 feet, extending from the Episcopal churchyard to Green street.

The fort was built nearly in the center of this plat, the south wall extending across Ferry street, three feet south of the north corner of the parsonage house.

The well of the fort was in the middle of the street, three feet south of the north corner of Mr. James Sander's house.

GARRISON AT SCHENECTADY.—While the province remained under the Dutch rule a small body of soldiers was stationed at Fort Orange. After the

English occupation in 1664 there was seldom less than one full company there, sometimes two, and Schenectady was garrisoned by a detachment therefrom of 20 to 40 men, under command of a lieutenant.

In times of alarm and war, as in the ten years' war between England and France, 1688-1698, the regulars were supplemented by the militia of the town or from Connecticut.

Hardly a year passed that the importance of having Schenectady better fortified and garrisoned was not recognized, either by the Governor and Council, the Legislative Assembly or the ruling power in the mother country.

In 1671 Governor Lovelace directed Captain Thomas De Lavall, chief officer at Albany, and he on the 15th of July ordered all the inhabitants of Albany and Schenectady over 15 and under 60 years to provide themselves with guns, side arms, two pounds of powder and four pounds of lead, each under a penalty of 100 guilders, all within fourteen days. The year following this order was renewed at a meeting of the chief officers of Albany and Schenectady, those of the latter place being Ensign Jacob Sanderse Glen and Ensign Sweer Teunise Van Velsen.

In 1687 Major Brockholes, being in command at Albany, reported to the Governor and Council assembled at Fort James, July 19, the condition of things at Albany and Schenectady, that "he is now come from Albany to Schenectade with instructions from the Government to bring up there with all convenient speed, a certain number of men & some provisions."

Whereupon it was "ordered that sixty men be reysed in & out of y^e city & county of New York, & fifty men out of Queens County."

In anticipation of an immediate attack upon the frontiers, the Mayor, Common Council of Albany, military officers and justices of the peace of the county met in convention at Albany, on the 4th of September, 1689, as a committee of safety, and after deliberation resolved to send an express to Capt. Leisler, of New York, for one hundred or more men, "a recrute of six hundred weight of powder and foure hundred Ball, viz., 200 two pounders and 200 foure pounders with some match and one hundred hand Grenadoes."

The period from 1688 to 1698 was the most trying and critical in the history of Schenectady. First there were alarms and apprehensions of an attack by the French and their Indians allies, the destruction of the village, the slaughter and the captivity of a large part of its inhabitants, and

lastly, the departure of many of the remainder to Albany, New York and other places of safety. The town was in danger of being depopulated in spite of stringent ordinances against removal and the encouragement of the Mohawks to stay by the post, fortify and maintain a vigorous warfare against their enemies.

For ten years the town gained little or nothing in population and prosperity, and until the peace of Ryswick the chief aim of the government and inhabitants was to hold the village, keep in repair its fortifications and maintain a sufficient garrison.

In 1698 the government sent over one Col. Romer, a military engineer, to examine, report upon and build certain forts needed on the coast and the frontiers.

Gov. Bellomont fully appreciated the importance of Schenectady and the necessity of its being properly fortified for the protection of the province on the side toward Canada. Hence he constantly importuned the Lords of Trade for men and means to complete and garrison the forts.

From this time on, the letters of the Governors of the Province to the Lords of Trade, the reports of the military commanders at this post, the orders and warrants of the Provincial Council, the acts of the legislature from time to time and the petitions of the chief inhabitants all combine to show the culpable neglect of the mother country of the safety of this her most important Province. All accounts of the condition of the fortifications and garrison at Schenectady after the peace of 1698 show that the stockades were neglected and suffered to rot down, rendering the town an open village, that the barracks became uninhabitable and that "it was by no foresight or energy of the Home government that Schenectady and its neighbors had been preserved from a second attack and destruction."

In the year 1703 Gov. Cornbury laid the foundations for a stone fort at Albany, and by the "advice of Her Majesty's Council of this province repaired as well as possible the stockaded fort at Schenectady."

Up to 1704 the palisades on the west side of the village stood about 100 feet back from Washington street, but on the 29th July, 1704, Governor Cornbury issued an order removing them to the bank of the *Binnekil*.

At about the beginning of the second "French War"—1755—the Assembly passed an act for raising £3,000, to be expended in fortifying the village; but after the close of this contest, and the fall of the French power in Canada in 1763, the

defenses of the village fell into decay, and were not renewed at the outbreak of the Revolution; neither were they renewed after its close. The old fort was removed, and the land sold; the stockades rotted and fell to the ground, and Schenectady became an "open village."

In 1872 there were those who remembered seeing the palisades standing along the Binne kill and used as tying posts for the Catteaux.

There is no map which shows the change made during the Revolution, when the palisade line was carried out as far as Given's Hotel on the south, or State street side, and thence north to the old Dutch Church burying ground.

MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS.

From 1748 to the Revolution not much can be learned of the military organizations in Schenectady, with the exception of the gallant part performed by a company of eighty-nine men, from Schenectady, commanded by Capt. William McGinnis and Lieutenant Jonathan Storms, at the battle of Fort George, September 5, 1755, between the English and French. The English troops were under Sir William Johnson, and the French under Baron Dieskau. In this battle, at that time said to have been one of the most desperate encounters ever witnessed in the new world, both officers and many of the privates of the Schenectady company were killed. But so nobly did they fight that, in his official report, Sir William Johnson said: "The Schenectady officers and men fought like lions."

When the first gun was fired and the first blood flowed at Lexington, on the 19th day of April, 1775, the mass of the inhabitants of Schenectady arrayed themselves on the side of liberty. On the 6th day of May, 1775, at a meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of the township of Schenectady, the following persons were selected to be a committee of correspondence, safety and protection for the township:

Rimies Mynderse, James Wilson, Hugh Mitchel, Henry Glen, Harmanus Wendell, Abraham Oothout, John Roseboom, Christopher Yates, Cornelius Cuyler and Jacobus Teller. Christopher Yates (father of the late Hon. Joseph Yates) was made chairman; Hugh Mitchel was made clerk.

The committee held its meetings in the house of William White, located on the corner of Church and Front streets, for many years the residence of the late Stephen Yates. Extensive and multifarious were the duties that devolved upon the members of this body. Not only were they to attend to raising troops and all the details of military matters, but acted as judges in cases of trial of all persons charged with treasonable sentiments. Many cases of this kind were tried before them, and those persons found to be unfriendly to the cause of the colonies, or who had in any way been proved as allies of England in speech or deed, were sum-

marily punished by imprisonment in the jail at Albany.

From the book of minutes kept by this committee, now belonging to the library of Union College, a book of 162 closely written pages, we learn how extensive were the duties and labors of this body of patriotic citizens.

The committee met often, and from the minutes kept of the meetings we make but a few extracts relative to the military companies formed at Schenectady during the revolutionary period. At a meeting, held May 26, it was resolved "to raise three companies of minute men in this township for its safety, in manner following, viz.:

"Two companies in the town and one company in the Westina; that such companies consist of one captain, two lieutenants, four sergeants, three corporals, a drummer and fifty privates, to choose their own officers; and that when said companies are formed, the captains in each to give a list of his company to the committee, and that said companies spend a few hours every week in learning the military exercise."

But at a meeting of the committee on the following day the inhabitants requested the committee to appoint officers for these companies, which the committee consented to do, and selected the following officers:

First Company—Captain, Jellis J. Fonda; 1st Lieutenant, Andrew Van Patten; 2d Lieutenant, Myndert A. Wemple.

Second Company—Captain, Cornelius Van Dorn; 1st Lieutenant, John Mynderse; 2d Lieutenant, Garrett Veeder.

Third Company—Captain, John Van Patten; 1st Lieutenant, Cornelius Van Slyck; 2d Lieutenant, Myndert M. Wemple.

From the minutes of May 29, 1775:

"In consequence of a request of the Committee of Albany to raise one company of men for the continental service to go to Ticantarog (Ticonderoga), consisting of one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, three sergeants, three corporals, one drummer, one fifer and fifty privates,

"Resolved, that Cornelius Van Dyck is appointed Captain, Benjamin Hilton and Cornelius Van Slyck, Ensigns, and that the utmost despatch be made in raising said company. Their pay to be as follows, viz.: Captain, per month, £6; Lieutenant, per month, £4; Ensign, per month, £3; Sergeants, per month, £2 8s.; Corporals, per month, £2 4s.; Drummer, per month, £2 4s.; Fifers, £2 4s.; Privates, £2—all lawful money of New England."

That this company was soon after raised is evident from the minutes of the committee of May 31, two days following, wherein the following appears:

"Captain Van Dyck made application to this board for provisions for his men.

"Resolved, that Captain Van Dyck's men be boarded for the present at the houses of John Wilson and Robert Moston (Moycton), at the rate of one shilling, New York currency, per day, per man."

On the 13th of July, 1775, orders were sent from General Schuyler to Captain Van Dyck to march with his company immediately to Lake George. But at this time both Captain Van Dyck and his First Lieutenant were absent recruiting. The committee therefore advised that the company proceed to Lake George on the following day, under the command of Lieutenant Lansing. But from the minutes of the committee we find the members of the company refused to march without their captain. The following resolution was then passed by the board:

"Resolved, that an express be sent to Captain Van Dyck, requesting his immediate return to march with his company, and that a letter be sent to General Schuyler, acquainting him of the reason for the company's delay."

On the 20th of August, 1775, a meeting of the committee was held for the purpose of taking into consideration the forming of the militia of the township into companies, according to the plans of the Continental and Provincial Congress.

It appears at this meeting that five companies of minute men and militia were formed, from the fact that a sub-committee was appointed at a meeting, held September 6 following, to attend the general committee at Albany on the seventh instant, to lay a list before it of the companies formed, and ask for their commissions. The captains of these several companies were the following: Jellis J. Fonda, John Mynderse, John Van Patten, Abraham Wemple and Thomas Wasson.

From the minutes of September 27, 1775:

"Having received a letter from the Provincial Congress, dated 9th of August, requesting that all the districts who could raise five companies of militia should recommend such persons as they thought proper to be field officers,

"Resolved, that this board recommend the following persons, viz.: Abraham Wemple to be Colonel; Jacob Schermerhorn, Lieutenant-Colonel; Abraham Swits, 1st Major; Nicholas Veeder, 2d Major; Aaron Van Patten, Adjutant; John Peek, Quartermaster.

On the 17th of November following the commissions of these officers were received, under instructions to the board to cause such officers to sign certain articles on the receipt of their commissions. All this was subsequently consummated, and the above-named officers were enrolled in the service.

January 13, 1776, Christopher Yates was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel, Mindert Wemple 2d Major and John Post Quartermaster, in place of Jacob Schermerhorn, Nicholas Veeder and John Peek, all three of whom had either refused to serve or resigned.

A company of 60 men was sent from Schenectady, January 13, 1776, to Tryon County, to quell a disturbance that had broken out there among the inhabitants, which, in the language of the letter received from the General Committee, "threatened destruction to the friends of liberty in that section."

Orders were sent to Capt. John Van Patten, January 14, 1776, to place guards at William De

Graat's, Tunis Swart's and Lewis Peek's, to prevent any unfriendly persons or letters to pass this point.

At a meeting of the committee, January 26, 1776, it was resolved to prepare a list of all the male inhabitants not already formed into military companies, so as to better enable the board to organize the militia of the township. Three lists were prepared, representing three companies, and all persons whose names appeared upon them were required to appear in Schenectady, February 10, to choose their respective officers. At this time the following officers were selected:

First Company—Captain, Thomas Bouver Bankers; First Lieutenant, John B. Vrooman; Second Lieutenant, Aaron Vedder; Ensign, Benjamin Young.

Second Company—Captain, Henry Glen; First Lieutenant, John Batterseles; Second Lieutenant, Nicholas Barhite; Ensign, Cornelius V. Sanford.

Third Company—Captain, Ahasueras Marseles; First Lieutenant, Isaac Van Slyck; Second Lieutenant, William Stephens; Ensign, Abraham Van Eps.

April 10, 1776, Garrett S. Veeder was appointed Captain of all the troops raised in the district.

At this date ends all records that can be found of the doings of the Committee of Safety, and from lack of reliable data it is impossible to follow in any connected manner the history of the military organizations formed in Schenectady during the revolution. We know from reminiscences and tradition that the soldiers furnished by the township of Schenectady during the long years of desperate and bloody strife were conspicuous for their bravery and ardent patriotism. Among the names already mentioned of the revolutionary veterans, those who became the most conspicuous at this period were: Cornelius Van Dyck, Christopher Yates, Jellis J. Fonda, John Graham and John Thornton.

Mr. Van Dyck was Lieutenant-Colonel and John Graham Major of the First New York Continental Regiment, commanded by Colonel Gosen Van Schaick, of Albany. This regiment was so well drilled and disciplined that it was said to have had no superior in the American Army. At the battles of Saratoga and Monmouth this regiment was conspicuous for the bravery and daring of its officers and men; and on the surrender of Burgoyne, one of its captains, as a mark of honor, was deputed by General Gates to carry a captured flag and the news of the surrender to the anxious citizens of Albany. At the storming of Stony Point, July 16, 1779, General Wayne placed this regiment in the front, and on the storming of the two redoubts at Yorktown, late in the afternoon of the 14th of October, 1781, where, to excite a spirit of emulation, this regiment was divided, one-half being committed to the French under Baron de Viomesnil, and the other to the Americans under the Marquis Lafayette, these troops assaulted the works with such rapidity and daring that the redoubts were carried with inconsiderable loss.

Major John Thornton, many descendants of whom still live in Schenectady, is spoken of as a

daring hero and one who experienced much severe military service.

Major Jellis J. Fonda, whose name has already been frequently mentioned, was an officer much esteemed by General Schuyler, and often selected by him where a heroic and intrepid leader was required. He was one of the earliest, most stirring and unhesitating patriots of Schenectady. On the first report of the beginning of the strife at Lexington, he immediately raised and equipped a company of more than 100 Schenectady minute men. In 1777, when Sir John Johnson with his Scotch retainers had fortified themselves in "Johnson Hall," General Schuyler with a large body of militia went there to reduce them. From out of his large force General Schuyler selected Captain Fonda to command a company of 200 men for the assault, of which the Schenectady men formed one-half. Under the assault of this daring officer, Johnson lowered his flag and surrendered without firing a gun. Fonda was ever afterward regarded as one of the most fearless of soldiers.

WAR OF 1812.

After the Revolution to the war of 1812 not much can be learned concerning military organizations in Schenectady. From the best information which can be obtained, not more than one independent company existed during this period.

During the war of 1812, Jonas Holland, who was a major under Gen. Scott, raised a company in Schenectady, which participated in this war. Nicholas Van Slyck, a major in the Revolutionary War, grandfather of Christopher Van Slyck, of Schenectady, was a conspicuous military man at this time.

Although but one regular company was raised in Schenectady for the War of 1812, many soldiers were recruited in this vicinity, who joined regiments which were credited to other localities.

About 1815 a company of Heavy Artillery was organized in Schenectady. John Benson was its first captain. Among its other officers appear the names of Thomas Hannah and David Reese.

A Rifle company was formed soon after the Heavy Artillery. Henry Miller, Joshua Harmon and Nicholas Barhydt were successively captains. At one time Andrew J. Barhydt, one of the oldest living members, was a lieutenant in this company.

About 1820 a company called the Grays was formed. The name of the company was derived from the color of their uniforms. Simon Glenn, Jesse M. Van Slyck and Abraham Clems were captains of this company at different periods.

All three of the above companies were in existence at the time of the opening of the Erie Canal, in 1825, and took part in the interesting ceremonies attending the passing through the city of the boat bearing Gov. Clinton and party.

A Cavalry company was organized about 1825. Joseph Consaul was captain of this company. Some time in the year 183- a company, called the Governor's Guards, was formed in this city. A. D. Briggs was its first captain. Judge Platt Potter at one time was captain of this company. In 183-, under

the State Militia law, all the military organizations in the counties of Schenectady, Montgomery, Fulton and Hamilton were formed into a brigade called the Fourteenth. This brigade was composed of three regiments, numbered 26th, 57th and 188th. The 26th Regiment included the military companies in Schenectady. The officers of the various companies in the brigade elected the following staff: Brigadier-General, Isaac I. Yates; Judge Advocate, Platt Potter; Aids, J. Andrew Barhydt, Van Schaick Vedder, John Allen and Martin C. Myers.

In 184- the military companies in the State militia in this district were reorganized. All the companies were formed into a brigade called the Seventeenth. This brigade was composed of three regiments; the number of the regiment which the Schenectady companies formed was the Twenty-sixth. The Governor appointed the following officers of this regiment: Colonel, Stephen Yates; Aids, J. Andrew Barhydt, James Ward, Carl Thompson, Nicholas Van Debogert and Dr. James S. Van Ingen. Col. Yates resigned in 1857, when J. Andrew Barhydt was appointed colonel. William H. Young was at one time major of this regiment.

About 184- a company called the Independent Artillery was formed in Schenectady. This became one of the finest companies ever organized in this vicinity. The uniform was very expensive and elegant, being a dark blue in color with no facings, surrounded by heavy white cord, entwined with gold braid. Tall bearskin caps added to the imposing appearance of the members. In this company were numbered many of our representative citizens at that time. John Robinson and Benjamin F. Paths were captains at different periods. John B. Clute and James Hannah were officers in this company, and took a lively interest in its welfare. The hall in Madison Vedder's building on Union street was used as an armory and drilling room. In 184- this company went to the State Camp at Utica, and for soldierly bearing, discipline and appearance was admitted to be the finest company among the large number there represented from different parts of the State.

In 1855 a company called the Continentals was organized. John B. Clute was its first captain. He was succeeded by Stephen Truax. Isaac Reagles was the last captain of this company, which disbanded some time in 1861.

CIVIL WAR.

We have now reached the exciting period of the beginning of the Civil War, at which time interest in home military companies was lost sight of, and they either disbanded or were allowed to die by neglect. The threatened realities of war made "playing soldier" in time of peace too tame for the patriotic citizens of Schenectady, and the first signal of the beginning of hostilities aroused many to the purpose of raising companies to save this government from threatened destruction.

And to-day, looking back over the stormy events of 1861-5, which formed the most important

period in the history of this country, we realize why the citizens of Schenectady have reason to feel proud of the record made by her sons in the war of the rebellion.

The State of New York was especially prominent in the number of troops it sent to the war, and no county according to population furnished more men to help save the nation's life during those years of bloody strife than Schenectady. The services they performed, the privations, suffering and the hardships endured in that great struggle, where so many of Schenectady's bravest and best gave up their lives that this government might live, cannot be properly treated in a work like this. It could only be imperfectly done in a work especially devoted to such a subject.

In the following account of the military organizations which went from Schenectady it has been the object to give in a necessarily condensed form the briefest account of each company, and of all the men from Schenectady who took a prominent part in the war. Much of the information here gathered was obtained from the meager accounts contained in the reports of the Adjutant-General, and from personal recollections of many of our living veterans of the war.

The first company organized in Schenectady for the late civil war was the Seward Volunteer Zouaves, afterward known as Company A, Eighteenth Regiment New York Volunteers. This company was organized by William Seward Gridley, who was elected its captain, and who commanded it at the first battle of Bull's Run.

On the 12th of April, 1861, Fort Sumter was bombarded, and evacuated by Major Anderson on the 15th. On this same day President Lincoln called for 75,000 men to suppress the insurrection. The next day the New York Legislature passed a bill, which was signed by Governor Morgan, appropriating three million dollars for the purpose of raising and equipping 30,000 volunteers.

On the 18th day of April, or six days after the first shot was fired at Fort Sumter, the following notice was published in the *Schenectady Daily Times*:

"Attention Volunteers!—All young men who are in favor of forming a light infantry company and offering their services to garrison this State, or to the President of the United States, to aid and assist in defending the Constitution and Union of the United States against foreign or domestic foes, are requested to meet at Cleary's saloon, opposite the railroad depot, on Friday evening, at 7½ o'clock, the 19th inst. This means fight, and all who sign must go. WM. SEWARD GRIDLEY."

At the meeting held in response to this notice forty-seven men signed an application for a company organization, and asked Governor Morgan to commission Wm. Seward Gridley, Captain; Daniel Daley, First Lieutenant, and Edward W. Groat, Ensign of said company. Gridley took the application to Albany, and received an order from the Adjutant-General to report at Albany with his company for duty on the 22d day of April, 1861. In the same order Lieutenant Simon G. Smith, of the

Twenty-sixth Regiment, New York Militia, was ordered to inspect and muster said company and to preside over an election of the officers. The muster and election took place on the 20th of April, when the same officers were elected as Governor Morgan was asked to commission.

In two days this company was organized and officered, and three days from the time of the call was ordered to report for duty at Albany.

May 14, 1861, the Eighteenth Regiment, New York Volunteers, was organized, and this company (then called the Seward Volunteer Zouaves) was assigned to that regiment as Company "A." At this time it numbered seventy-four men and three officers. About sixty of the men were from Schenectady.

May 17, 1861, the Eighteenth Regiment was mustered into the service of the United States, and on the 18th of June following started for Washington, being one of the regiments in the first fight of Bull's Run.

Captain Gridley was promoted to the rank of Major, October 14, 1862, and received at the close of the war the honorary title of Brevet Colonel, New York Volunteers. Daniel Daily was promoted to the captaincy of this regiment, November 10, 1862, and was honorably discharged February 26, 1863. Edward W. Groat was promoted from Ensign to Second Lieutenant, July 4, 1861, but resigned December 18, 1861. March 5, 1863, he became Major of the 134th Regiment. Joseph Strunk, who entered Gridley's company as Sergeant, was mustered out, May 28, 1863, as Second Lieutenant. He was commissioned, December 14, 1863, as Captain in the Second Regiment, Veteran Cavalry, and at the close of the war made Brevet Major, New York Volunteers.

The second company organized in Schenectady was formed by Stephen Truax. The officers, who received their commissions May 2, 1861, were: Captain, Stephen Truax; First Lieutenant, William Horsfall; Ensign, John Vedder. This company was enrolled in the Eighteenth Regiment as Company "E," May 17, 1861 (same time as Captain Gridley's company), for a term of two years. Captain Truax resigned December 27 of this year, and was succeeded in command by William Horsfall, who was killed while gallantly leading his company at Crampton Gap, Maryland, September 14, 1861. John Vedder succeeded him as Captain, and remained in command until the company was mustered out of service, May 28, 1863. Alfred Truax, who entered this company as Sergeant, was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant, December 15, 1862. Andrew C. Barup became Second Lieutenant.

E. Nott Schermerhorn, who enlisted in this company as First Sergeant, rose in succession to Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, and became one of the Adjutants of the Regiment, November 10, 1862, holding the latter rank when the regiment was mustered out, May 28, 1863.

The Eighteenth Regiment was one of the first organized during the war, participating in the first battle of Bull's Run, Crampton Gap, West Point,

White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Salem Church and Savage Station. For a short time the late Dr. James L. Van Ingen was one of the Surgeons of this regiment. When the time for which this regiment was mustered into service expired, the present Captain of the Thirty-seventh Company, National Guard, State of New York, George W. Marlette, was the only private in the regiment who received from Governor Morgan, for gallant and meritorious service, the honorary rank of Brevet Lieutenant.

William A. Jackson, a son of the late Professor Jackson, of Union College, was Colonel of the Eighteenth Regiment from the time of its organization till his death from disease at Washington, November 10, 1861. William H. Young, another gallant soldier from Schenectady, was for a short time Lieutenant-Colonel of this regiment.

The third company formed in Schenectady was organized by Barent M. Van Voast, June 1, 1861. The officers, who received their commissions July 4, 1861, were: Captain, Barent M. Van Voast; First Lieutenant, Manse V. V. Smith; Ensign, Edward Van Voast. This company contained seventy-four privates and three officers. It was enrolled in the 30th Regiment as Company "C," for a term of two years from June 1, 1861.

Captain Van Voast was dismissed March 7, 1862, and succeeded by Manse V. V. Smith, who resigned November 26 of the same year. Edward Van Voast became First Lieutenant May 13, 1862, retaining this rank when the company was mustered out, June 18, 1863. He afterward became Major in the 2d Regiment of Veteran Cavalry, and at the close of service of this regiment was made a Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, N. Y. V.

Charles Roth, who entered Company C as First Sergeant, was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant March 4, 1863, and subsequently commissioned a Brevet Major, N. Y. V.

The 30th Regiment, with which Company C was most honorably connected, participated in the battles of Gainesville, Groveton, South Mountain, Antietam and Fredericksburg.

The fourth company formed at Schenectady was organized by Allen H. Jackson, who received a Captain's commission October 1, 1861. This company consisted of eighty-seven members, including the officers. It was enrolled as Company G in the 91st Regiment for a term of three years, being mustered out of service July 3, 1865. The officers who were commissioned at the same time as Jackson were George W. Shaffer, First Lieutenant, and William Harty, Second Lieutenant.

Captain Jackson was honorably discharged from this company February 23, 1863, and promoted to the rank of Major in the 134th Regiment. March 4, 1863, he became Lieutenant-Colonel, and December 10th of the same year, Colonel of this regiment, but was mustered out of service June 10, 1865, as Lieutenant-Colonel. George W. Shaffer succeeded Jackson as Captain of Company G. December 31, 1864, Shaffer was promoted to Major, 61st N. Y. Vols., and subsequently received the honorary rank of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, N. Y. V.

William Harty succeeded Schaffer as Captain of Company G, December 24, 1864, and remained in command until the company was mustered out of service.

Cornelius Gill entered this company as Second Sergeant, and was promoted through the successive ranks to First Lieutenant, which latter position he held when the company was disbanded.

Between the middle of August and the 3d of September, 1862, there were three military companies formed at Schenectady, which entered the service for a term of three years. All three were enrolled in the 134th Regiment, and were known as Companies B, F and H.

Company B was organized by David H. Hamlin, who received his commission as Captain, August 17, 1862. At the same time Solyman G. Hamlin was commissioned First Lieutenant, and Solomon C. Wilson, Second Lieutenant. This company numbered 102 men, and participated in many of the great battles of the war. Benjamin F. Sheldon was Captain of this company when it was mustered out. Solyman G. Hamlin was promoted to Captain of Company C, March 7, 1863. April 7, 1865, he was made Major of the 192d Regiment, and mustered out of service August 28, 1865, with the honorary rank Brevet Captain, N. Y. V.

Lucius Mead, who enlisted in Company B as First Sergeant, was promoted to a Lieutenantcy. He was killed while bravely leading his company at the battle of Gettysburg.

Company F was organized by Gilbert D. Kennedy, who was commissioned as Captain, August 30, 1862. At the same time were commissioned George A. Turnbull as First Lieutenant, and Clinton C. Brown as Second Lieutenant.

Captain Kennedy was promoted to rank of Major, June 23, 1863, and died of disease at Philadelphia, August 3 of the same year.

George A. Turnbull succeeded Kennedy as Captain of Company F, but resigned February 3, 1864.

Clinton C. Brown was promoted to Captain, April 14, 1863, and to Lieutenant-Colonel of the 134th, July 27, 1864.

Company H was organized by Austin A. Yates, who received his commission as Captain, September, 1862, with Gerardus Canley as First Lieutenant and Marcus A. Herrick as Second Lieutenant. Captain Yates was discharged June 10, 1863, on account of defective eyesight, but re-enlisted as Captain of Company F of the Fourteenth Veteran Corps. This regiment participated in the engagement against Early in front of Washington. Capt. Yates was promoted to rank of Brevet Major by President Lincoln, and was assistant to Judge-Advocate-General at Washington, D. C., one year subsequent to August, 1866, when he was mustered out of service.

William H. Mickle, who enlisted in Company H as Second Sergeant, was made Captain, April 22, 1865. Barney S. Smith, another Sergeant, became Captain, February 28, 1865, and was mustered out of the service as a Brevet Major, N. Y. V.

The 134th Regiment, of which the three preceding companies formed a part, participated in the battles of Chancellorville, Gettysburg, Missionary Ridge, Knoxville, Atlanta, Resaca, Dallas, Pine Knob, Lost Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Savannah and Goldsboro. At the overthrow of the 11th corps, on the afternoon of Saturday, May 3d, at the battle of Chancellorville, the 134th was engaged in reconnoitering in the enemy's line and did not share in that terrible retreat, but took active part in the battle of the next morning.

Companies "A" and "I" of the 134th were raised and credited to Schoharie County, yet both contained many Schenectady men. In company "A" Henry Y. Bradt, First Lieutenant, and the names of Garret Horsfall and Andrew A. Kelly are worthy of mention. In company "I," Frank Fletcher was Captain, who afterward became Chaplain of the regiment and was mustered out of the service as Brevet Major, N. Y. V. Albert G. Washburn entered this company as First Lieutenant and was promoted to Captain. He died in camp, near Falmouth, Va., Jan. 26, 1863.

In company "I" Charles A. Ahreets enlisted as Orderly Sergeant; by promotions, earned by gallantry, became Adjutant of the 134th, July 27, 1864. He was killed while acting as assistant adjutant-general, in the siege of Savannah, Dec. 13, 1864.

Edwin Forrest enlisted in company "B" of the 134th as First Lieutenant, Dec. 2, 1862. Jan. 30, 1864, he was made Captain of this company. He died from wounds received at the battle of Dug Gap, May 20, 1864.

Thomas Forrest, a brother of Edwin, enlisted as Second Lieutenant in company "F," of the 134th, and was promoted to First Lieutenant, March 7, 1863. He was subsequently made Brevet Captain, N. Y. V.

Among the Schenectadians who served with distinction in the rebellion, whose names have not been previously mentioned, were A. Y. Carner, Henry Ramsey, Jr., James T. Joslin and A. Barclay Mitchel. Cramer was made Quartermaster of the 134th, Oct. 1, 1862. Ramsey entered this same regiment as a Lieutenant and was also made Quartermaster. Joslin and Mitchel entered the service as Lieutenants and were promoted to the rank of Captain, Joslin in the 134th and Mitchel in the 18th.

Although the 119th regiment was raised and organized in New York city, some of its best and bravest officers came from Schenectady. Indeed its first commanding officer was Col. Elias Peissner, a son-in-law of the late Prof. Tayler Lewis, of Union College. Col. Peissner was a brave and courageous officer, and after gallantly leading his regiment in a number of engagements was killed at the battle of Chancellorville, May 2, 1863.

In company "B" of the 119th, Charles F. Lewis, a son of the late Professor Lewis, enlisted as Second Lieutenant, but was promoted in succession to the rank of First Lieutenant, Captain and Major.

In company "D" of the 119th, Henry R. Schwerin, another Schenectadian, enlisted as Second

Lieutenant. He was promoted to First Lieutenant April 10, 1863, and was killed at the battle of Chancellorville, May 6, 1863.

The 77th Regiment, although organized in Saratoga County, contained a number of Schenectady men. In Company H of this regiment fully a fourth of the number were from this county. In this company David J. Caw enlisted as 1st Sergeant. His worth and gallantry secured him rapid promotion. March 21, 1862, he was commissioned 2d Lieutenant; September 23, 1st Lieutenant; December 10, Captain; December 20, 1864, Major; and four days after, Lieutenant-Colonel, with which rank he was mustered out of the service, June 27, 1865. July 6, 1865, for gallant and meritorious services, he was commissioned Colonel by Governor Morgan. At the same date his brother, William E. Caw, who entered Company H as Corporal, received a commission as 1st Lieutenant.

The 77th Regiment, it will be remembered, was a part of the Sixth Corps, and accompanied the army of the Potomac through all its memorable campaigns, participating in the battles of Yorktown, Williamsburg, Golding's Farm, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, Crampton Gap, Antietam, Marye's Heights, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Rappahannock Station, Petersburg, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Fort Stevens, Opequan, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek.

In the 2d Regiment of Veteran Cavalry, besides Edward Van Voast and Joseph Strunk, already mentioned, were Charles W. Johnson, Albert Westinghouse and Sherman A. Case. Johnson was promoted from a Lieutenancy to Quartermaster. Westinghouse was a Lieutenant in one of the companies of this regiment. He was killed in action, December 10, 1864. Case also served as a Lieutenant, and was mustered out of service with this rank, November 8, 1865.

Among the surgeons from Schenectady who entered the service during the civil war were: G. W. Van Voast, J. D. Jones, Alfred G. McDonald and William H. Hoag. Jones was Surgeon in the 22d Cavalry, McDonald in the 12th Cavalry and Hoag in the 134th Infantry.

J. J. De Forest, a resident of the town of Duaneburgh, was Colonel of the 81st Regiment, raised in Oswego, during the war. (For further sketch of Mr. De Forest, see article on town of Duaneburgh.)

The 192d Regiment was composed principally of men who had already served one term of enlistment. This regiment was one of the last organized during the war, having been mustered in the service in the fore part of the year 1865. No less than 133 in this regiment were from Schenectady, among whom was the late Solymann G. Hamlin, a brave and courageous soldier, who, as has been previously stated, was promoted to the rank of Major in this regiment.

The 83d REGIMENT, for home protection, composed entirely of companies in the City and County of Schenectady, was formed April 27, 1863. It was composed of ten companies, and formed a part of the 18th Brigade, 5th Division, when first

organized, but soon after was included in the 13th Brigade, 3d Division. July 23, 1873, it was reduced to a battalion of six companies. It was disbanded January 17, 1874.

The original officers of this regiment were: James Fuller, Colonel; Robert Furman, Lieutenant-Colonel; John C. Bartrydt, Major; Vedder V. Van Patten, Adjutant; L. Dodge, Quartermaster; J. O. Timberman, Surgeon; Cornelius Van Santvoord, Chaplain.

Robert Furman was made Colonel, August 6, 1864, and John McShea Lieutenant Colonel. Gershom Banker was made Major, July 12, 1866. Benjamin F. Sheldon was made Adjutant, June 20, 1866, and Major, October 17, 1867. George W. Marlette was made Adjutant, January 4, 1868, and Major, May 27, 1871. John C. Perry became Major, December 29, 1869, and Lieutenant-Colonel, May 28, 1869. Michael H. Lamp was made Adjutant, September 22, 1871, and Edward H. Vrooman became Quartermaster, June 14, 1867. James D. Jones was at one time Surgeon, and Dennis Wortman, Chaplain.

After the close of the war a company composed of army and navy veterans, called the Soldiers' and Sailors' Union, was formed, of which Major Ralfe Van Brunt was Commander. Some time after this company disbanded and formed the Schenectady Zouaves Cadet. Major Ralfe Van Brunt was its first Captain. He was succeeded by Captain Austin A. Yates. This company existed for a number of years, when its name was changed to William Horsfall Post, No. 14. A. A. Yates, G. W. Marlette and William G. Caw were Commanders of this company at different periods. The name of this Post was subsequently changed to Edwin Forrest Post, No. 90. G. W. Tompkins, James F. White, Frederick Eisenminger and James R. Reagles were at various times Commanders of this Post. A few years ago the name of the Post was again changed to Post Horsfall, No. 9, which name it still bears. The present Commander is James R. Reagles.

At present there are but two military companies in Schenectady under the State Militia laws, the 36th and 37th Separate Companies, N. G., S. N. Y.

The THIRTY-SIXTH COMPANY (Citizens' Corps) was mustered in the State Militia, July 12, 1880, for a term of five years, with 57 members. Its first officers were: Austin A. Yates, Captain; Oscar Shannon, 1st Lieutenant; Geo. W. Tompkins, 2d Lieutenant. Its present officers are: Austin A. Yates, Captain; James F. White, 1st Lieutenant; James R. Reagles, 2d Lieutenant. This company is composed of 65 members.

The THIRTY-SEVENTH COMPANY (Washington Continentals) was mustered in the State Militia, with 51 members, at the same time and for a like period of service as the 36th. Its first officers were: Clinton C. Brown, Captain; Nelson McDonald, 1st Lieutenant; Thomas Gregg, 2d Lieutenant. Captain Brown was succeeded by Walter S. Van Voast. Van Voast was succeeded by the present Captain, Geo. W. Marlette. By the

death of 1st Lieutenant Nelson McDonald, Thomas Gregg was made 1st Lieutenant and James H. Vedder 2d Lieutenant. This company is composed of 65 members.

NAVIGATION.

RIVER, STAGE AND RAILWAY.

It would be difficult for those acquainted with the present business interest of Schenectady to realize its commercial importance during the colonial history of this State.

Situated at the foot of navigation on the Mohawk, it had a frontage of twenty miles by road, subsequently reduced to sixteen miles by way of the Albany and Schenectady turnpike, between the Binnekill and Hudson river. From its fortunate position and subsequent improvements made in the channel of the Mohawk, it had direct communication by water with the chain of lakes in the interior of the State and with Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence, and thus became the natural depot for the products of the far-stretching West.

To explain the obstacles overcome and the causes which tended to make Schenectady a center of commercial trade, it will be necessary to review some of the history of the earliest settlements in the New Netherlands.

The first settlers in this region came here almost solely for the purpose of trade. Indeed, so intent were they upon the Indian traffic that agriculture was greatly neglected and barely enough farm products were raised to support the population at the trading posts.

The first trading house was built by the United New Netherlands Company, on an island in the Hudson river, called *Castel Eylandt*, in the year 1614. This island is now included within the limits of the City of Albany.

The privileged West India Company was chartered in 1621, with extraordinary powers of sovereignty and trade, and two years after erected Fort Orange, where Albany now stands. Here was the chief seat of the Indian trade, and where, in the business season, in June, July and August, the natives gathered in great numbers with their peltries. Until 1630 the two chartered companies above mentioned claimed and practically had a monopoly of the Indian traffic. Van Rensselaer, who had obtained possession of about 700,000 acres of land around the fort in that year, claimed not only a share of the profitable beaver trade, but also the land on which Fort Orange stood. Not only did this result in the loss of a large revenue to the West India Company, but it was also found that the servants of the company made private ventures of their own, so that by 1639, when trade was nominally thrown open to all, the income of the company had very much diminished.

In 1652 Stuyvesant established a court at Fort Orange and Beverwyck. With this court came municipal rights, excise, taxes, civil officers and all the privileges thereto belonging, among which was claimed the monopoly of trade with the Indians.

Every burgher (for outsiders were denied this privilege) who could purchase an anker of brandy or tub of beer, claimed and used his rights to trade for beaver and often forestalled the market by sending runners up the Mohawk to purchase the natives' peltries. Such was the condition of the Indian trade when the first settlement was made at Schenectady in 1662.

The people of Fort Orange, plainly seeing that the location of Schenectady would make it a formidable rival as a trading center, took precautions to defend their own market and protect themselves from competition.

When the settlers of Schenectady applied for a patent to their territory, called by the Indian title the "Great Flatt," from the Governor and Council, it was granted only on the condition that they "promise not to carry on or allow to be carried on at the aforesaid Flatt or thereabout any the least *handeling* (trade) however it may be called." This arbitrary prohibition, though for a time apparently acquiesced in by the people, outraged their sense of justice and right. It soon began to be reported that these trade regulations were disregarded at Schenectady. Gov. Lovelace in 1669 issued an order prohibiting such trade, and in 1671 issued orders to Capt. Sylvester Salisbury, Commander of the fort at Albany, to search the houses in Schenectady whose occupants were suspected of trading with the Indians. But proclamations and orders against the offending town seemed unavailing, as neither the orders of the Council nor proclamations of the Governor served to effectually restrain the people from engaging in traffic with the Indians.

Albany was chartered as a city in 1686, before which time, though claiming a monopoly of the Indian trade, the magistrates were powerless to pass ordinances for its regulation, but operated through the Governor and Council.

Immediately after the granting of the charter, however, the common council passed ordinances claiming for such city the sole monopoly of the trade with the Indians, and prohibiting any traffic with the Indians outside of the walls of Albany. But these exclusive ordinances did not have the effect of confining the trade to the city of Albany. Much legal difficulty grew out of this attempted enforcement, until the year 1727, when the arrest and conviction of a citizen of Schenectady, suspected of Indian trading, was contested in the Supreme Court, which legal contest resulted in the final acquittal of the suspected persons and freeing Schenectady from the authority of those hateful ordinances that had fettered its trade for more than fifty years.

After 1727, by the decision of the highest court in the province, trade was made free. With free trade came traders, and the flow of emigration began to go westward. Settlements were made on the upper Mohawk and along the Schoharie, which greatly increased the volume of trade at Schenectady. Better roads were made from Albany to the foot of navigation in this city, as aiding to the impediments in the lower Mohawk. Schenectady was always the best place of departure, while the distance from

Albany was little, if any, greater than points lower down the stream.

Up to about the year 1740 the early settlers used the largest sized Indian bark canoes for transporting their merchandise. They were very light, and capable of carrying considerable cargo. One or two men, sitting in the bottom, propelled the little vessel by paddles, and at rifts or shallow places waded, and pushed or pulled it over. When water failed them, or the falls could not be overcome, the boat and cargo were carried around the portage, when navigation was again resumed. As there were many rifts or rapids in the Mohawk river to be overcome, navigation at this period was attended with great difficulties. The first of these impediments was a few miles above Schenectady, and was called *Sixth Flat rift*. Proceeding west, in succession came *Fort Hunter rift*, *Caughnawaga rift*, *Keator's rift*, the latter having a fall of ten feet; *Brandywine rift*, at Canajoharie, short but rapid; *Ehles rift*, near Fort Plain, and the *Little Falls*, so called in comparison with the larger falls at Cohoes. At Little Falls there is a descent in the river of forty feet in the distance of half a mile, up the current of which no boats could be forced; so it became a portage, or carrying point, for both boats and merchandise, which were transported around the rapids on wagons, and when relaunched and reloaded, pushed on again.

Gov. Burnett, one of the Colonial Governors of New York, in a report to the Lords of Trade, during the period of canoe navigation, estimated the number of canoes regularly engaged in the fur trade which came to Schenectady from 1716 to 1720, at about 30, and from 1720 to 1724 at about 323.

As settlements grew in the western part of the State the volume of trade increased to such an extent, that about the year 1740 the Indian canoe was superseded by the small batteau, a wooden vessel strongly braced with ribs, sharp at both ends, and generally manned by three men. They were paddled or poled, or towed by men along the bank or shallow places.



Batteau.

Simms says, in his history of Schoharie County, speaking of the batteau: "These boats were forced over the rapids in the rivers with poles and ropes, the latter drawn by men on the shore. Such was the mode of transporting merchandise and Indian commodities to and from the west for a period of fifty years and until after the Revolution. A second carrying place in use at an early day was at Fort Stanwix, from the boatable waters of the Mohawk to Wood Creek; thence passing into Oneida Lake the batteau proceeded into the Oswego River, and thence to Oswego on Lake Ontario, and to Niagara, or elsewhere on that lake, or the St. Lawrence, as they pleased to venture," and

after being carried around the Falls of Niagara to Chippewa, went uninterruptedly on to Detroit, their usual limit, and sometimes even to Mackinaw.

But after the Revolutionary War the tide of emigration set strongly westward, and that energetic population required increased facilities for transportation and communication with the great Hudson River and their old homes in the East, and elsewhere.

Gen. Philip Schuyler, who at this date was Surveyor-General of the State of New York, succeeded, with the aid of many citizens of Schenectady and its vicinity, in forming a corporate body, known as the Western Inland Navigation Company. This company was empowered to improve the channel of the Mohawk from Schenectady, and build canal and locks to Lake Ontario and to Seneca Lake.

A canal was built at Little Falls, 4,752 feet long, of which 2,550 feet went through solid rock. Upon it were five locks, with a total rise of 44½ feet. A canal 1¼ miles long was constructed, with a lock at Wolf's rift, German Flats, while another canal at Rome, 1¼ miles long, connected the Mohawk with Wood Creek. On Wood Creek four locks were built, with a total depth of 25 feet. The chambers of the locks were 74 by 12 feet, and allowed boats of 32 tons to pass, but other impediments limited boats to a burden of 10 to 11 tons. This work of the Inland Navigation Company was finished in 1797, and cost \$400,000, of which the State paid \$92,000. The great cost required high tolls. In 1808 the company gave up its rights west of Oneida Lake, and sold out to the State in 1820 for \$152,718.52.

These improvements opened not only a direct water communication from Schenectady to Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence, but permitted the use of larger and more serviceable boats.

To meet the demands of an increased trade, made possible by better facilities, a boat called the Durham was constructed, a craft which carried a fair cargo, and which held its own until the Erie Canal sounded the death knell of the Mohawk river as a navigable stream. This style of boat is said to have been first used on Long Island.

"The Schenectady Durham," says Prof. Pearson in his history of the Schenectady Patent, "was the pride of the place, and extensive boat-yards were employed in construction and repairs of these crafts, which were roughly treated by the boulders on the many rifts and landing places."

This gallant craft was constructed something in shape like the modern canal boat, broad, flat-bottomed and straight-sided, with easy lines at bow and stern to help her flotation on striking a rapid. Her carrying capacity ranged from eight to twenty tons. A mast was placed near the bow and equipped with square sails.

When wind and tide were favorable these Durham boats sailed easily, but owing to the crookedness of the channel and its shallowness, this was only for very short distances. The main reliance was on the pole or tow-line.

In the cut a boat is seen forcing a "rift," and the crew (usually numbering five or six men) are wading and pushing the craft through the pass. Light boats could go from Schenectady to Fort Stanwix and back in nine days, but the larger boats required fourteen days to make the trip.



Durham Boat.

As the country grew in population, and more especially after the Revolution, the traffic on the river grew to immense proportions. A stone tramway was built at enormous cost by the Albany and Schenectady Turnpike Company, to expedite the hauling of goods to the harbor on the Binne Kill, which in time was lined with batteaux, and as late as 1812 as many as fifty Durham boats would lay in this port, loading or discharging cargoes.

Most of these boats used on the Mohawk and western waters were built at Schenectady. It formed one of the most important business interests of the place.

The boat-yards were located on what is termed the Strand street on the river, then much wider than now, owing to encroachments and other causes. It was no uncommon sight, says Judge Sanders, in his history of this county in the war of 1812, to see from twenty-five to one hundred boats on the stocks at the boat-yards, extending from near the Mohawk bridge to North street.

The boats that conveyed the army of General Wilkinson down the St. Lawrence were all built at this place, the oak forests of our common lands furnishing the requisite material. The principal boat builders were the Van Slycks, Marselises, Veeders and Peeks.

Time has wrought so many changes in this city that it seems difficult to picture the scenes of busy activity, with the extensive wharves, freighting establishments, and storehouses which lined the Main Binne Kill previous to the year 1819. At this date a destructive fire occurred, which completely destroyed this portion of the city, which never again recovered its business, mercantile or commercial importance, for the contemplated construction and subsequent completion of the Erie Canal removed the business seat of our city to its present location.

"Previous to the fire of 1819," says Judge Sanders, "the Mohawk river above the bridge was

a broad, deep stream, upon which Durham boats, carrying sails like an Albany sloop and from eight to twenty tons of freight, glided, often under full sail, to or from our then deep and commercial Binne Kill, the miniature golden horn of our city."

At this wharf were the warehouses of the freighting firms of Yates & Mynderse, Jacob S. Glen & Co., Stephen N. Bayard, Walton & De Graff, Lusher & McMichael. Some idea of the business done may be gathered from the fact that 300 families derived their support by carrying in wagons the freight from the storehouses in Schenectady to the City of Albany.

The first daily line of boats used for carrying passengers was established by Eri Lusher, in 1815. They were constructed after the model of the Durham boat, with cabin in midship, carefully cushioned, ornamented and curtained, expressly calculated for and used to carry from twenty to thirty passengers at a time. They ran between Schenectady and Utica, making the passage between the two places down the river in about thirteen hours, and up the river, with favorable winds and high water, within two days.

But we are now coming to the period when the completion of the Erie Canal, the greatest work of internal improvement in the interest of commerce ever accomplished in this country, began to play an important part in the commercial interest of Schenectady. It was commenced in 1817, but was not completed until the year 1825.

It is a fact not generally known that the route of the canal through this city is entirely different from the course as first laid out by the projectors. The original route was along the Binnekill, near the business portion of the city. Work had even been commenced upon it when, mainly through the personal efforts of Resolved Givens, proprietor of a hotel which stood near or on the site of the present Givens Hotel, the canal commissioners were persuaded to change the course to the present route. Resolved Givens was the father of William C. Givens, of this city, and a man of considerable influence at this date. The construction of the canal through the central part of the city, together with the destructive fires already mentioned, decided the fate of the lower part of the city as a business center, and this section lost forever the commercial importance it had enjoyed for so many years.

Navigation on the canal has not undergone much change since the early part of its history. The boats of to-day are very similar in appearance, although much larger than those used in the early days of canal navigation. As first constructed, the canal was about forty feet wide and four feet deep, but in 1835 the work of enlargement began, which was not completed until 1862, costing over \$36,000,000. The present dimensions of the canal are seventy feet in width and seven feet in depth. These improvements in the channel of the canal have permitted the use of boats at the present day of the carrying capacity of 300 tons, while the original boats were only able to carry about ninety tons.

The motive power remains substantially the same as when the canal was first opened, most of the boats being propelled by the use of horses. Steam power has only been used since a comparatively recent period, and although it is a subject of much discussion among canal men, and great improvements have been made, it is a system of canal navigation not generally used.

The completion and successful operation of the Erie Canal gave rise to similar ones elsewhere, and was of vast benefit to the whole country, and to-day, notwithstanding the rapid transportation of merchandise by our great systems of railroads, it continues to be the channel of a wonderful outflow of the agricultural products of the West to the seaboard, and the inflow of the merchandise from the Atlantic ports to the interior.

Until the completion of the railroad the Erie Canal was much used for carrying passengers. Boats used for this purpose were called packets. Even before the entire canal was finished portions of it, as completed, were used. As early as May 31, 1824, a boat named *Schenectady* commenced to make trips from Albany to Schenectady; leaving Albany in the morning at nine o'clock, it reached Schenectady about noon, and then would start on a return trip on the following morning.

The traveling done on the packet boats was an important feature of the early navigation of the canal, and a great number of boats were used exclusively for this purpose along its entire length, yielding a large income. Up to the year 1857 these boats were built and used upon the canal for this purpose, but since this date they have been entirely discarded, having been completely superseded by the railroads.

Since 1857 the canal has been used exclusively for carrying merchandise, and during the year 1872 (the year before the great depression in the business of the country began) the value of the property that was transported on the canal was \$168,000,000, notwithstanding a two-track railway carrying an immense amount of freight was laid parallel to it in its entire length.

The future of this great thoroughfare, of such untold benefit to the early development of this country, cannot be foretold in this period of rapid growth of our vast western territory. But it would seem that the slow method of canal transportation must be improved by new and more rapid methods of locomotion or ultimately give way to the demands for a more speedy transportation.

STAGE LINES.

In the early history of this country, means of communication and facilities for traveling from one place to another were attended not only with great expense, but with difficulty and danger. Until the completion of the Erie Canal, and the limited facilities the Mohawk offered, traveling to and from Schenectady was done by the slow, tedious and wearisome stage coach.

Communication from New York to the interior prior to the revolution was a matter of the greatest difficulty, and only attempted in cases of most urg-

ent necessity, usually taking three weeks to make the round trip. So slender were the facilities and resources of the country that the first mail ever received at Schenectady was on the 3d day of April, 1763, more than one hundred years after the patent was granted.

Probably the first regular stage started by a Schenectadian was run by Moses Beal in May, 1793. It ran from Albany to Schenectady, Johnstown and Canajoharie once a week. The fare was three cents a mile. The success of this enterprise was so great, that John Hudson, keeping the Schenectady Coffee House, on the southwest corner of Union and Ferry streets, now the property of Madison Vedder, Esq., soon afterward established a line of stages to run from Albany to Schenectady three times a week. John Rogers, of Ballston, ran a line from that place to connect with it, by which a regular communication was first established for the convenience of those who visited the springs. The fare was one shilling to Schenectady; those that continued through were charged three-pence per mile.

In 1794 there were five great post routes centering in Albany—the first to New York, the second to Burlington, Vermont; the third to Brookfield, Massachusetts; the fourth to Springfield, Massachusetts; the fifth route was by the way of Schenectady, Johnstown, Canajoharie, German Flats, Whitestown, Old Fort Schuyler, Onondaga, Aurora, Scipio, Geneva, Canandaigua, and subsequently extended to Buffalo. The mail on this route was carried once in two weeks. Thomas Powell, Aaron Thorpe and Asa Sprague, of Schenectady, were leading proprietors of this last route, under whose management its business grew to immense proportions, "so much so," says John Sanders, "that during the war of 1812, it was no uncommon sight to witness from eight to twelve stages on the Scotia dyke, leaving or entering Schenectady at one time; and in one instance the writer counted fourteen in a continuous line."

The fare from Schenectady to Canajoharie was fourteen shillings, returning twelve shillings, averaging four cents per mile. Four cents was the average fare per mile on this route.

In 1795 John Hudson ran two stages, one of four horses and the other of two, daily between Albany and Schenectady, and in March of the next year Ananias Platt went upon the same line, making four trips a day. At this time there were four public places on the stage line between Schenectady and Albany: Truax's, four miles from Schenectady; Down's, nine miles; McKown's, eleven miles; and Humphrey's, fourteen miles.

In 1823, Thomas Powell, of this city, commenced running daily stages from Schenectady to Troy, fare seventy-five cents each way. From a Schenectady newspaper of May 1, 1823, we find at the close of the advertisement announcing the new enterprise, the following quaint notice:

"N. B.—As this is an establishment entirely new, it is not likely to be very profitable at first; but the proprietor hopes in time, with the assistance of his friends, to make it a great accommo-

dation to the public, and merely asks a remuneration for necessary expenses."

In 1825 another daily line was started between Schenectady and Troy, and the fare reduced to 6½ cents. This includes all the stage lines of importance which had headquarters at Schenectady of which we have any authentic account. The opening of the canal in 1825 did away with a greater part of this business in Schenectady, while the completion of railroads closely following supplanted it entirely. Its tired horses and tired men have been superseded by the iron horse that never tires.

RAILWAYS.

No event in the history of Schenectady has done more to give this ancient city renown abroad than its connection with the enterprise which resulted in building the first steam passenger railway in the world. True, in 1783 a railroad was constructed in France, but it was a crude affair and used only for the transportation of coal. The era of successful operations for the transportation of passengers upon railroads by locomotives propelled by steam dawned a little more than half a century ago, and the fine plain between Schenectady and Albany was the theater of the first genuine passenger railroad ever built in the world.

Mr. George W. Featherstonhaugh, an honored and influential citizen of Schenectady, and the father of Geo. W. Featherstonhaugh of this city, was one of the first projectors of this enterprise. As early as 1812 a pamphlet was published explaining the superior advantages of railways and steam carriages over canal navigation. In 1825, a writer in the *Albany Argus* urged upon capitalists the absolute necessity of their building a railroad from Albany to Schenectady, under the questionable plea that it was the only course to take to prevent Albany going to decay through the rivalry of Troy.

Mr. Featherstonhaugh, in a letter to the Mayor of Albany, said the transportation of property from Albany to Schenectady was seldom effected in less than two, and sometimes three, days. By railroad, he argued, the communication between the same points could be made, in winter and summer, in three hours, at no greater cost than by canal, paying for sixteen instead of twenty-eight miles. He regarded this experiment, which he believed to be practical, as a test whether this economical mode of transportation would succeed in this country.

The project was brought before the Legislature early in the session of 1826, and a bill to incorporate the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad introduced. On the 10th of March the bill was discussed in the Assembly. It is amusing to read the novel argument, advanced by the men of that day, both *pro* and *con*, in regard to the project.

The bill passed the Assembly on the 27th of March, 1826, incorporating the company, with a capital of \$300,000, with liberty to increase it to \$500,000, and a duration of fifty years, limiting the time for construction to six years. Stephen Van Rensselaer, known as the old patroon, of Albany, and George W. Featherstonhaugh, of this

city, were the only persons named as directors in the charter.

On the 26th day of June of this year books were offered for subscription to the stock of this road, and the stock was eagerly taken up by capitalists; but for some cause the company moved slowly, for more than four years elapsed before the road was begun.

On the 29th of July, 1830, the ceremony of breaking ground for the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad took place near Schenectady *with a silver spade* by Stephen Van Rensselaer. In September it was announced the stock had risen ten per cent., and the editor of the *Albany Daily Advertiser* predicted that trains would run from Albany to Schenectady in a quarter of an hour, and reach Utica from Albany in four hours. The latter was a somewhat startling prediction at this time, when we consider that the utmost exertions of the stages barely overcame the distance in twelve hours.

By the 25th of July, 1831, twelve months from the time when the ceremony of breaking ground was performed, the road was completed from the junction of the Western turnpike and Lydius street, Albany, to the brow of the hill at Schenectady, a distance of twelve and a half miles. Some defects in the first locomotive used, called the De Witt Clinton, prevented a trial before the 3d of August. On this day a trip was made in one hour and forty-five minutes, and on the 10th they ran two trains each way, with coke as fuel, making a part of the trip at the rate of thirty miles an hour.

The passenger cars were simply stage coach bodies placed upon trucks for temporary use, affording seats for fifteen or eighteen persons. August 13 a large company assembled to take a trip on the railroad, but the De Witt Clinton engine, built at the West Point foundry, in New York, proved defective in her boiler, and was returned for repairs. At this trial, and in previous ones, coal or coke had been used for fuel, but wood was finally adopted. On the 9th of September the De Witt Clinton was again put upon the rail, and succeeded in drawing a train over the road in forty-five minutes. It was not till the 22d of September that the directors advertised to take passengers, although city officials and other dignitaries had passed over the road both by steam and horse power early in August. The road was still uncompleted and used only from the junction, as it was called, two miles from the foot of State street, in Albany, from where passengers were taken to the train by stage coaches. The other terminus of the road was still at the bluff overlooking Schenectady, where passengers were again transferred to stages. The distance traversed was less than thirteen miles.

The precise time when the directors of the road felt prepared to crown the success of their labors by a grand excursion, was the 24th of September, 1831. To this demonstration, by invitation, came the State and city officials and a number of eminent citizens of New York. The train, drawn by the De Witt Clinton, started off with three cars and returned with five cars, making the return trip in thirty-five minutes.

In January, 1832, the company reported to the Legislature that the amount actually paid and disbursed in the construction of the road was \$483,215, and that \$156,693 would be required to complete it.

In the spring of 1832 the road was completed throughout its whole line, and the inclined plane being in working order, another grand excursion was given on the 14th of May, extending from the foot of Gansevoort street, Albany, into the heart of Schenectady. The cars were drawn up the inclined plane by means of a long rope attached to them and to a stationary engine at the top, the whole steadied and balanced by a car loaded with stone descending on the opposite track. This same ceremony was observed at both terminations of the road, occupying much time. The same style of coaches were still used. In the fall of this year a new pattern of car was built at Schenectady, more nearly like those now in use, the architecture of which was modeled from Dr. Nott's parlor stove, and was called the Gothic car.

In 1841 the inclined planes at both ends of the roads were done away with, and locomotives were used on the whole length of the road. The success of this road, and the advantages of this means of communication, although rudely constructed at great and much needless expense, became so apparent, that within three years railroads, duly chartered by law, were projected in every part of the State.

The next railroad built in this section was called the Saratoga and Schenectady Railroad, and ran from Schenectady to Saratoga. This company was formed February 16, 1831, and the road was completed and in operation in 1832. This road is now leased and operated by the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad.

In 1835 the Utica and Schenectady road was constructed, and in 1843 the Schenectady and Troy branch was built.

It will be seen at this early date in the history of railroads in this country that Schenectady enjoyed facilities for communication by rail equal to, if not surpassing, any place in the State.

In 1853 a company was formed by consolidating all the railroads then in operation, and some projected roads between Albany and Buffalo, called the New York Central Railroad. This consolidation included the Mohawk and Hudson, the Schenectady and Troy, and the Utica and Schenectady Railroads. The act allowing the consolidation was passed April 2, 1853, and carried into effect May 17, 1854. This road runs from Albany to Buffalo. It was finished and in operation in 1855.

In 1869 this company consolidated with the Hudson River road, running from Albany to New York, under the corporation name of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, thus opening a road, under the management of one company, extending from the great lakes to the Atlantic seaport.

In 1874 this road from Albany to Buffalo was increased from two tracks to four, making it the only four-track road in the United States.



R. S. Allen

In 1869 the Schenectady and Duanesburgh road was incorporated, with a capital of \$150,000, and completed 1873. It runs from Schenectady to Quaker Street, and connects at the latter place with the Albany and Susquehanna road.

In 1866 a road called the Athens Branch was constructed. It runs from Athens to Schenectady, and is now owned and operated by the New York, West Shore and Buffalo Railroad.

In 1883 the New York, West Shore and Buffalo Railroad was constructed, and runs through the western portion of Schenectady County, having a station at "South Schenectady," about two and a half miles from the city.

This completes but a necessarily brief account of the railroads in Schenectady County, which to-day form the most important business interest of this city, which can almost lay claim to the proud distinction of having been the birth-place of the great railway system of the world.

REUBEN S. ALLEN.

REUBEN S. ALLEN, the hale and hearty old gentleman whose features are shown in the accompanying engraving, was born in Burlington, Vt., in 1823. When a young boy he was apprenticed to Gay & Edwards, of Winouski Falls, to learn the machinist's trade, and readily grasped the details of the business. When he was about seventeen, he was sent by Mr. Gay to Canada, to ride for a month on a locomotive engine plying on a railroad from St. John to La Prairie, to study its workings. This attracted his attention to locomotive engineering, which he was destined to make his life work. At the time Mr. Allen began learning his trade, the science of steam motive power had progressed so little, that there was scarcely a steam engine in the State of Vermont, and during succeeding years, Mr. Allen set up many stationary engines in Vermont, New York State and elsewhere, in the meantime spending one year on the steamer "Dodger," then plying on Lake Champlain. On March 11, 1846, he became a locomotive engineer, running an engine on the Whitehall and Saratoga railway. In 1850 he relinquished his place for a similar one on the N. Y. Central road, which he has kept ever since. During this time he has run engines named after every president of the road, beginning with Erastus Corning. In this long period Mr. Allen has never been injured, nor has a brakeman or passenger on his train received a scratch. Many notable persons have been carried by him, both on his regular trips and specials. About twenty-five years ago he took the Russian fleet from Albany to Niagara in six and a half hours, the first time an engine ever ran so long a distance without long stops. In 1881, he ran William H. Vanderbilt's special train from Syracuse to Albany in the remarkable time of two hours and fifty minutes. Mr. Allen now runs the "flyer," which leaves Albany daily for the West at 12:15 P.M. In 1844, Mr. Allen married Miss Irene Taylor, and their union has been blessed with six children—five of them daughters. All these have

married, and twenty-three little ones say "grandfather" to the subject of our sketch. Mr. Allen has always had good health, and still possesses an iron constitution. His present home is in Schenectady. When he retires, as he expects to do March 11, 1886, the fortieth anniversary of the beginning of his life on the locomotive, he intends to publish a book relating his varied experiences among railroad men and others. After that is finished, Mr. Allen says he "will go fishing ten years," after which he will be ready to go "over the river." The veteran often receives letters from young engineers asking for advice, which he is always ready to impart in his genial, whole-hearted way.

THOMAS COX, son of Hugh Cox and Elizabeth Muir, was born in Schenectady, December 14, 1818, his parents having come from Scotland two years previously. He is one of the oldest locomotive engineers in the State.

EDWIN WEMPLE was for many years one of the most trusted and skillful engineers of the New York Central Railroad, and is now retired from active service with a competency.

FERRIES.

The first ferry was established, at a very early date in the history of Schenectady, at the north end of Washington street, and continued there to 1768. Some time after it was removed to the north end of Ferry street, which, at the first, terminated at the fort, but this street was afterward carried through to the river, and was called New street. This latter ferry was owned by the Borough of Schenectady, and, as far back as 1795, was leased to Abram Oathout for £50 per year.

In 1790 there was a ferry at the foot of Ferry street, then recently opened to the river, as appears by a mortgage given by Sybrant Van Schaick to Adam S. Vrooman.

In the year 1797 there were three ferries in Schenectady. The first, called the Upper Ferry, was at the foot of Washington street, and kept by Jan Bapt. Van Eps. The second was called the Middle Ferry, was one mile below the Upper Ferry, and kept by Volkert Veeder. The third was called the Lower Ferry, situated a few rods below the Middle Ferry, and was kept by John Bapt. Van Vorst.

The individuals who laid claims to the revenue received at the Upper Ferry were: Jan Bapt. Van Eps, who owned the land on both sides of Washington street; John Sanders, who owned the opposite bank; and Joseph C. Yates, who owned the land below Van Eps on the same side.

A compromise was effected in this manner: Sanders collected all tolls from the country to the city, and Van Eps and Yates collected from the city to Glenville. There were two boats: one from foot of Washington street, owned by Van Eps, and the other from Governor's lane, owned by Yates. By compromise, the ferry rights of all persons were obtained by the Bridge Company,

when the Mohawk Bridge was constructed. In 1805 this ferry was called "Van Eps' Ferry."

The "Middle" ferry was discontinued about 1804, as the charter of the Mohawk Bridge Company passed the Legislature about this time, and provided that no ferry should be within one mile of the bridge.

The "Lower Ferry," being without the limits provided in the bridge charter, was continued in various

hands until some time in 185—, or until Volney Freeman built a bridge across the river at this point.

The most western ferry in Schenectady County was established by Harmanus Vedder, twelve miles west of the city. It was called Vedder's ferry until 1835, when it was bought by John Hoffman, and the name changed to Hoffman's ferry. It has borne this name ever since, and is still in operation.



OLD MOHAWK BRIDGE.

BRIDGES.

Probably the first bridge in Schenectady was the bridge over Mill (or Sand) Kil, on Water street. It was called the "Town Bridge" as early as 1701. It is doubtful if there was any bridge over this creek in Washington street until long after.

As early as 1716 there was a bridge across the Sparrebaugh (or Sand Kil), three miles south of Schenectady, at or near the Brandywine Mill, on the old road to Albany. It was known as the Sparrebaugh Bridge.

In 1736 there was a bridge over Poenties Kil, on the "Bouwland," about two miles west of the city, called Johannes Teller's Bridge. In some old deeds it was also called the "Third Bridge."

In 1767 there was a bridge across the Cowhorn Creek, on Albany (now State) street. This was called John Baptist's Bridge. About this same date there was a bridge over Hansen (or Simon Groot's) Kill, on Wart (now Romeyn) street.

But the first bridge of importance and worthy of much note was an elliptic or arched one, built at the foot of State street over the Mohawk. It was begun in 1797, and when nearly completed, the winter following, was upset by the wind, taken down, and rebuilt on piers in 1803.

In 1808 was erected the original Mohawk Bridge across the river at the foot of Washington street. This was a suspension bridge of elegant proportions, built of wood, 900 feet in length. It was designed by the celebrated bridge architect, Theodore Burr, and was pronounced his best effort. Its completion December 6, 1808, was the occasion of a

grand celebration in honor of the event. Gov. Tompkins, State Comptroller, and many other prominent men participated.

This bridge, as remembered by most of our citizens, gives no idea of its early appearance of symmetry and beauty. Its subsequent disfigurement by the addition of several piers, and an unsightly covering over the whole, may have added to its solidity and ultimate preservation, but certainly destroyed all its original elegance of design and execution.

The cut we insert of this bridge was produced from a photograph taken a short time before it was taken down, in 187—, to make room for the present structure, which spans the river on the same piers, with but little alteration, upon which stood the old bridge, which had become for many years previously an object of curiosity to travelers and tourists, and the last of its kind in the United States. The present bridge was finished in 1874, at a cost of about \$60,000, and is owned by the town of Glenville, toll being collected of all non-residents.

In about 1855, as previously stated, Freeman's Bridge was erected by Volney Freeman, who shortly after its construction became sole owner. Since the first bridge was built two other structures have been erected on the same site, caused by the destruction of the original bridges, either by natural decay or in consequence of floods. The present bridge was built in 1879-80, at a cost of \$20,000. In 1875 the Freeman Bridge property was purchased by the town of Glenville, and is still owned by this town.

The aqueduct bridge, crossing the Mohawk at Rexford's Flats, was built by the State shortly after the construction of the canal aqueduct over the Mohawk at this place, about 1825. It was afterward purchased by the Rexford's Flats Bridge Company, and is still owned by this company. A new iron bridge is at present in course of construction on this site.

BOROUGH TOWN OF SCHENECTADY, 1765-1798.

The inhabitants of the township of Schenectady for more than a hundred years from its first settlement had enjoyed no civil privileges or political rights other than those appertaining to other towns in the province.

During and subsequent to the French war, the town made rapid growth in population and importance.

The commercial business, as has been stated, at this period had grown to immense proportions, bringing a large influx of foreign people to the town, and to properly rule and govern the place a stronger government was needed. The magistrates and people were anxious to secure an independent government, and in 1764 applied to Gov. Monckton for a city or a borough charter.

In accordance with this petition, Lt.-Gov. Colden, on the 22d of October, 1765, granted the inhabitants a borough charter, the second granted in the province. It was fashioned after an English model, with great care, formality and minuteness, worthy to be called a city charter.

Schenectady was thus created a borough town, under the corporate title of the "Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the Borough Town of Schenectady."

The following is a list of the first officers named in the charter: Isaac Vrooman, Mayor; John Duncan, Recorder; Jacobus Van Slyke, John Glen, Jr., John Sanders, Daniel Campbell, John Visger and John B. Van Eps, Aldermen; Garrit Lansing, Rynier Myndertse, Ryer Schermerhorn, Tobias Ten Eyck, Cornelius Cuyler and Hermanus Bradt, Assistants; Thomas McIlworth, Town Clerk; Christopher Yates, Treasurer or Chamberlain; Isaac Marselis and Isaac Swits, Assessors; Barent S. Veder, Collector; Richard Collins, High Constable; Thomas Murray, Hermanus Terwilliger, John Van Voast, Charles Dennison, James Dunlop and John Wasson, Jr., Sub-Constables; and Alexander Campbell, Sergeant of the Mace. The mayor, recorder and town clerk were to be appointed, and were removable by the Governor and Council; the aldermen and assistants, assessors, collectors and constables were elected by a plurality of votes of the freemen assembled yearly for that purpose on the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel; the high constable and chamberlains were named by the mayor and common council and the sergeant of the mace.

The mayor or recorder, with three or more aldermen and three or more assistants, by the name of the "Common Council of the Borough Town of

Schenectady," were to have power to make laws, ordinances, etc., for the good rule of the borough aforesaid, and the trade carried on there; for regulating the watermen and ferriage; for the preserving and selling the lands of Schenectady, etc., to remain in force for twelve months. The freemen of the borough were to be such persons of lawful age as had been born therein, or such as had resided therein ten years previously, or such as had that privilege granted by the common council; and none but freemen were allowed to use any art, trade or mystery, or to expose for sale any manner of goods or wares at retail, under penalty of five pounds.

It is doubtful if this very elaborate charter was ever carried into effect; it was altogether too complicated a piece of machinery for the simple-minded burghers of Schenectady. The mayor, recorder, aldermen and assistants were called together the following December to hear it read and take their official oaths; whether they ever met again or performed any acts under it is not known, no records being now extant of their doings.

A fatal defect of this charter was, that it did not finally dispose of the dispute about the management of the common lands; the trustees appointed under Arent Bradt's will did not relinquish their office and power to the new common council; they still held and managed all the property of the town.

Soon after this charter was granted, the contest for independence began with the mother country. All local differences were merged in this, and it was not until some years after the war closed that the dispute about the public lands of the town was settled and a new city charter obtained.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

The "Father of Our Country" visited Schenectady at three different times. The first occasion was soon after the revolutionary war, in the interest of the defence of the frontier. He was the guest of John Glen, who was then quartermaster of the department. The second occasion was by invitation of the citizens of Schenectady. He, in company with Gen. Philip Schuyler, rode in a carriage from Albany, on June 30, 1782. He was received with great honor by the civil and military authorities, and a public dinner given him at a hotel then situated on the south corner of State and Water streets, one of the houses spared in the great fire of 1690. It was kept at the time by Robert Clinch, formerly a drum-major under Gen. Braddock, and well known to Gen. Washington. The principal citizens of the place dined with him.

An address was made to Washington, to which he wrote the following reply:

"To the Magistrates and Military Officers of the Township of Schenectady:

"GENTLEMEN—I request you to accept my warmest thanks for your affectionate address. In a cause so just and righteous as ours, we have every reason to hope the Divine Providence will still continue to crown our arms with success, and

finally compel our enemies to grant us that peace, upon equitable terms, which we so ardently desire.

"May you, and the good people of this town, in the meantime be protected from every insidious and open foe; and may the complete blessings of peace soon reward your arduous struggles for the establishment of the freedom and independence of our common country. GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"SCHENECTADY, June 30th, 1782."

The third visit was in 1786, when Washington made a tour with Gov. George Clinton, Gen. Hand, and many other officers of New York as far west as Fort Stanwix. In passing through Schenectady, he stopped at the same hotel as on his former visit.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

The office of Supervisor in the State of New York is of very ancient origin. It existed in the Colonial period, during which time the duties of the office were confined to auditing the accounts brought against the county by town officers and others, electing County Treasurers, Law Officers and a Clerk—very ancient offices in this State. The Boards of Supervisors in the different counties are now legislative bodies, having the same relation to the counties that the Assembly has to the State. From time to time, since the organization of the government, their powers have been extended over local matters, until many important local laws touching the interests of their respective counties had, and still have, their origin in them.

The first Board of Supervisors met in the City Hall, situated on the corner of Union and Ferry streets, on the site of the present dwelling house of H. S. Barney. This building was owned by the city, and used for city purposes, till the organization of the county, when suitable quarters in this building were given the county for the transaction of county business. The Board continued to meet here until 1816, when the City Hall was sold to Union College, and a room was provided in the present Union School building, then purchased by the city. Here the Board continued to meet till the completion of the present Court House, in 1833, from which date the meetings of the Board were held in this building, till the present commodious quarters were provided in the County building on Union street in 1871.

THE FIRST BOARD OF SUPERVISORS for the county of Schenectady of which there is any record, met at the Court House in the city of Schenectady, on Tuesday, October 3, 1809, under the provisions of the Act of the State Legislature, passed March 7, 1809, forming Schenectady County, which gave to this county all the rights, powers and privileges enjoyed by the other counties of the State.

The Supervisors elected for this year were as follows: Maus Schermerhorn, for First and Second wards; Alexander McMichael, for Third ward (now Rotterdam); James Boyd, for Fourth ward (now Glenville); William North, for Duanes-

burgh; Lawrence Vrooman, for Niskayuna; Alexander Murray, for Princetown. William North was chosen Moderator, Abraham Van Ingen Clerk, and Cornelius Z. Van Santvoord, County Treasurer.

The salaries of Clerk and Treasurer were fixed at fifty dollars per annum.

The following appears in the record of this year:

"Resolved, that a reward of ten dollars be allowed for each and every wolf which shall be killed within this county, to be paid to the person or persons producing satisfactory proof to this Board that he or they have killed the same as aforesaid."

We find in the record of proceedings for this year, and for a number of years following, that considerable money was paid to different persons under the provisions of this resolution.

The contingent expenses this year were \$361.21; \$947.32 were returned to the city of Schenectady for repairs to Court House and Jail. The total tax levied was \$2,417.11. The total valuation of real and personal estate of the county was \$1,841,728.

1810.—Supervisors—Simon A. Groot, First and Second wards; Jacob Mabie, Third ward; John A. Vrooman, Fourth ward; John Young, Duanesburgh; S. J. Van Antwerp, Niskayuna; Alexander Murray, Princetown.

The Board met April 28, at the Court House, and elected Alexander Murray, Moderator; and at the first meeting of the annual session, Oct. 2, Harmanus Peek was chosen Clerk, John Yates, County Treasurer, and Alexander G. Fonda, County Physician. The latter appointment was the first ever made to this position.

The total amount of tax levied this year was \$3,393.25.

1811.—Supervisors—Maus Schermerhorn, First and Second wards; Jacob Mabie, Third ward; John A. Vrooman, Fourth ward; John Brown, Duanesburgh; S. I. Van Antwerp, Niskayuna; William Templar, Princetown. Tuesday, October 1, Maus Schermerhorn was elected Moderator, Abraham Van Ingen, Clerk, and Cornelius S. Van Santvoord, Treasurer.

The sum of \$503.11 was raised to reimburse the city of Schenectady for preparing a Court House and Jail for the use of the county; \$800 was levied upon the freeholders of the city to pay a night watchman for guarding the city.

The total tax levied this year amounted to \$2,664.97.

1812.—Supervisors—Jellis A. Fonda, First ward; Maus Schermerhorn, Second ward; Harmanus A. Van Slyck, Jr., Third ward; Jacob A. Vrooman, Fourth ward; John Brown, Duanesburgh; Derick C. Groot, Niskayuna; William Templar, Princetown.

The Board met October 6, and elected Maus Schermerhorn, Moderator, Abraham Van Ingen Clerk, and Cornelius Z. Van Santvoord, County Treasurer.

The following sums were levied upon the city of Schenectady for this year: Support of poor,

\$315.00; night watch, \$800.00; surveying road, \$8.75; expense of a road in Third ward, \$142.53.

The entire tax levied this year was \$2,751.03.

1813.—Supervisors—Harmanus Peek, First ward; Simon A. Groot, Second ward; Harmanus A. Van Slyck, Jr., Third ward; James Boyd, Fourth ward; James Cantley, Duanesburgh; Simon I. Van Antwerp, Niskayuna; William Templar, Princetown.

The Board met Tuesday, October 5, electing James Cantley, Moderator, Abraham Van Ingen, Clerk, and Daniel McDougall, County Treasurer.

The contingent expenses of the county were \$300.00; the total tax levied, \$4,139.86.

1814.—Supervisors—Harmanus Peek, First ward; John S. Schermerhorn, Second ward; H. A. Van Slyck, Jr., Third ward; James Boyd, Fourth ward; James Cantley, Duanesburgh; William H. Alexander, Niskayuna; William Templar, Princetown; Moderator, James Canly; Clerk, Robert Galley; County Treasurer, Daniel McDougall. This year \$800 was levied on the city for expenses incurred in laying out a road from the extremity of Washington street to the western bounds of the city. Total tax levied, \$3,981.62.

1815.—Supervisors—Harmanus Peek, First ward; Cornelius Z. Van Santvoord, Second ward; Garrett S. Veeder, Jr., Third ward; James Boyd, Fourth ward; James Cantley, Duanesburgh; Derick Vedder, Niskayuna; Henry Fryer, Princetown.

The Board met October 3, and elected Cornelius Van Santvoord, Moderator, Robert Galley, Clerk, and Daniel McDougall, County Treasurer. A tax of \$1,063.66 was levied against the county this year for common schools. The total tax levied this year amounted to \$4,761.13.

1816.—Supervisors—Harmanus Peek, First ward; Dowe Clute, Second ward; Jacob Mabie, Third ward; Robert Sanders, Fourth ward; James Cantley, Duanesburgh; Simon I. Van Antwerp, Niskayuna; James Combs, Princetown. Moderator, Simon I. Van Antwerp; Clerk, Henry V. Fonda; Treasurer, Daniel McDougall.

On April 5th of this year a special act of the Legislature was passed empowering the Board of Supervisors to convey to the city all the right and title to the lot and building thereon used as a Court House and Jail, in consideration of the corporation of the city granting to the Board suitable room in the edifice now occupied by the Union School, and which had been bought from the Trustees of Union College, in the year 1812, for court, jail and all county purposes.

Such exchange was consummated October 14th of this year.

Total tax levied, \$5,080.73.

1817.—Supervisors—Harmanus Peek, First ward; Dowe Clute, Second ward; Harmanus A. Van Slyck, Third ward; James Boyd, Fourth ward; James Cantley, Duanesburgh; Harmanus P. Schuyler, Niskayuna; James Combs, Princetown.

The Board met October 7, and elected Harmanus Peek, Moderator, Henry V. Fonda, Clerk.

The following is a report made by Gideon Hawley, principal assessor, and adopted by the Board of Supervisors, October 10, 1817:

"Valuations of lands and dwelling houses in the seven towns and wards within the county of Schenectady, as determined by the principal assessor of the thirteenth collection district in the State of New York:

"First ward, \$245,335; Town of Niskayuna, \$105,421; Second ward, \$385,280; Town of Princetown, \$140,850; Third ward, \$179,750; Town of Duanesburgh, \$448,205; Fourth ward, \$277,177.

"The Board of Principal Assessors added two per cent. to the above valuations."

Entire tax levied, \$12,278.42.

At this session of the Board a resolution was offered for the removal of County Treasurer Daniel McDougall; but it failed in being carried by one vote. Mr. McDougall then resigned his position, and Thomas B. Clinch was appointed treasurer.

1818.—Supervisors—Harmanus Peek, First ward; Maus Schermerhorn, Second ward; Frederick Bradt, Jr., Third ward; Henry Hogan, Fourth ward; James Cantley, Duanesburgh; Harmanus P. Schuyler, Niskayuna; James Combs, Princetown. Moderator, Harmanus Peek; Clerk, Henry V. Fonda; County Treasurer, Thomas B. Clinch. The total tax levied, \$9,478.38.

1819.—Supervisors—Richard McMichael, First ward; James Walker, Second ward; Bartholomew Schermerhorn, Third ward; Christian Haverly, Fourth ward; Lewis Eaton, Duanesburgh; Harmanus P. Schuyler, Niskayuna; James Combs, Princetown. Moderator, Harmanus P. Schuyler; Clerk, Henry V. Fonda; County Treasurer, Thomas B. Clinch. We find a spirit of friendship for educational privileges evinced by the members of this Board in granting the free use of rooms in the City Hall to the trustees of the Schenectady Academy for one year. Total tax levied, \$10,699.10.

1820.—Supervisors—Richard McMichael, First ward; James Walker, Second ward; Bartholomew Schermerhorn, Third ward; James Boyd, Fourth ward; James Cantley, Duanesburgh; Harmanus P. Schuyler, Niskayuna; Isaac Wemple, Princetown. Moderator, James Cantley; Clerk, Henry V. Fonda; County Treasurer, John S. Vrooman.

At this session of the Board, \$100,000 of valuation was taken from the aggregate valuation of the First and Second wards in consequence of the destruction by fire of these wards during the preceding year.

1821.—Supervisors—Henry Peek, First ward; James Walker, Second ward; Peter Becker, Rotterdam; Albert A. Vedder, Glenville; James Cantley, Duanesburgh; Harmanus P. Schuyler, Niskayuna; Solomon Kelly, Princetown. Moderator, Albert A. Vedder; Clerk, Henry V. Fonda; Treasurer, John S. Vrooman.

It will be noticed that at this time the city of Schenectady was divided into only two wards.

April 14, 1820, by an act of the State Legislature the part of the city known as the Third ward was formed into a separate town called Rotterdam, while all that part of the city heretofore known as the Fourth ward was formed into the town of Glenville. The total tax levied this year was \$7,484.53.

1822. — Supervisors — Harmanus Peek, First ward; Abram Van Ingen, Second ward; Harmanus A. Van Slyck, Rotterdam; Peter H. Brooks, Glenville; James Cantley, Duanesburgh; Cornelius C. Van Vranken, Niskayuna; Solomon Kelly, Princetown. Moderator, Abram Van Ingen; Clerk, Archibald L. Linn; Treasurer, John S. Vrooman. The amount of county charges this year, including \$510.52 for contingent fund, was \$2,751.55; State tax, \$1,852.21.

By an act of the State Legislature, passed April 12 of this year, the Board of Supervisors, in conjunction with the Judges of Common Pleas, appointed the Justices of Peace, and prescribed the number of coroners to be elected. The Board met for this purpose February 18, 1823.

1823. — Supervisors — Harmanus Peek, First ward; Abram Van Ingen, Second ward; John Pangburn, Rotterdam; Cornelius S. Conde, Glenville; Joseph Gaige, Duanesburgh; Cornelius C. Van Vranken, Niskayuna; Solomon Kelly, Princetown. Moderator, Abram Van Ingen; Clerk, Edward Yates; Treasurer, John S. Vrooman.

The Board met with the Judges of Common Pleas October 7, 1823, in accordance with an act of the Legislature passed April 12, 1822, directing the appointment of Commissioners of Deeds for the several towns of the county. Total tax levied this year, \$8,134.54.

1824. — Supervisors — Harmanus Peek, First ward; Abraham Van Ingen, Second ward; Peter Becker, Rotterdam; James Boyd, Glenville; William A. S. North, Duanesburgh; Cornelius C. Van Vranken, Niskayuna; Solomon Kelly, Princetown. Moderator, Abraham Van Ingen; Clerk, Edward Yates; Marshal, Thomas B. Clinch; County Treasurer, John S. Vrooman.

Total tax levied this year was \$9,327.53.

1825. — Supervisors — Harmanus Peek, First ward; Abraham Van Ingen, Second ward; Zachariah Carpenter, Glenville; William A. S. North, Duanesburgh; Cornelius C. Van Vranken, Niskayuna; Peter Becker, Rotterdam. Abraham Van Ingen, Moderator; Edward Yates, Clerk; Thomas B. Clinch, Marshal; John S. Vrooman, Treasurer. From the records this year, the names of the following incorporated companies in Schenectady County liable to taxation were returned to the State Comptroller: Mohawk Bank, Mohawk Turnpike Company, Mohawk Bridge Company, Schenectady Manufacturing Company and the Schenectady Water-works Company.

The total tax levied this year was \$8,997.50; State tax, \$1,016.39; school tax, 762.30; poor, \$2,062.99; road and bridges, \$515.59.

Up to the present year the annual sessions of the Board had been commenced on the first Tuesday in October. By an act of the Legislature this

year the time was changed to the second Tuesday in November.

1826. — Supervisors — Harmanus Peek, First ward; Abram Van Ingen, Second ward; Zachariah Carpenter, Glenville; Benjamin S. Knight, Duanesburgh; John Clark, Niskayuna; Abraham Dorn, Princetown; Bartholomew Schermerhorn, Jr., Rotterdam. Moderator, Abram Van Ingen; Clerk, Edward Yates; Marshal, Thomas B. Clinch; Treasurer, John S. Vrooman.

At this session of the Board, the first report was presented from the superintendents of the alms-house.

From the report of the superintendents we find that the total expense of the alms-house, from August 1 to October 30 of this year, was \$321; number of paupers, 38.

The amount of tax levied this year, and for like purposes, was about the same as for the preceding year.

1827. — Supervisors — Ezekiel Sexton, First ward; Abraham Van Ingen, Second ward; Daniel Smith, Glenville; Benjamin S. Knight, Duanesburgh; John Clark, Niskayuna; William Templar, Princetown; Bartholomew Schermerhorn, Jr., Rotterdam. Moderator, Abraham Van Ingen; Clerk, Archibald L. Linn; Marshal, Thomas B. Clinch; Treasurer, John S. Vrooman.

An appropriation of \$500 was made for the erection of a fire-proof County Clerk's office.

The County expenses this year were \$4,000.

1828. — Supervisors. — Ezekiel Sexton, First ward; Abraham Van Ingen, Second ward; Zachariah Carpenter, Glenville; Abraham Pearse, Niskayuna; Ebenezer Knibloe, Duanesburgh; William Templar, Princetown; Simon Schermerhorn, Rotterdam. Moderator, Abraham Van Ingen; Clerk, Archibald L. Linn; Marshal, Thomas B. Clinch; Treasurer, John S. Vrooman. The County Clerk's office was completed this year at a cost of \$1,000.00. It was built on the northeast corner of the Court House yard.

The first list of Grand Jurors was chosen this year.

April 12, 1824, an act was passed by the Legislature relieving all persons from military duty who had conscientious scruples averse to bearing arms, by the payment of \$4.00 as commutation money, such money to be applied to the support of the poor.

The names of the persons are given in the record of this year who availed themselves of the provisions of this act.

Total tax levied this year was \$8,310.79.

1829. — Supervisors. — Harmanus Peek, First ward; Abraham Van Ingen, Second ward; Peter H. Brooks, Glenville; Joseph Gaige, Duanesburgh; Abraham Pearse, Niskayuna; Solomon Kelly, Princetown; Simon Schermerhorn, Rotterdam. This was the first meeting of the Board when the presiding officer was called Chairman instead of Moderator.

Chairman, Abram Van Ingen; Clerk, Archibald L. Linn; Marshal, Thomas B. Clinch; Treasurer, John B. Clute.

The total tax levied this year was \$8,011.40.

A special meeting of this Board was held March 16, 1840, to confer with the Common Council of the city, trustees of the Lancaster School, and a committee appointed by the citizens of Schenectady, in regard to the sale of the City Hall and Court House to the State, for the purpose of a female penitentiary.

It was agreed on the part of the Board to sell the City Hall and Court House for a sum not less than ten thousand dollars, provided that not less than eight thousand dollars should be paid to the Board toward the expenses of erecting a court house and jail and fire-proof clerk's office, and the furnishing of a room to the city as a common council chamber.

1830.—Supervisors.—Harmanus Peek, First ward; Abraham Van Ingen, Second ward; Cornelius S. Conde, Glenville; Joseph Gaige, Duanesburgh; Cornelius C. Van Vranken, Niskayuna; Solomon Kelly, Princetown; Simon Schermerhorn, Rotterdam. Chairman, Abraham Van Ingen; Clerk, Archibald L. Linn; Marshal, Lewis Finch; Treasurer, John B. Clute.

The total tax levied was \$10,176.98.

1831.—Supervisors.—Harmanus Peek, First ward; Abraham Van Ingen, Second ward; Robert Sanders, Glenville; Joseph Gaige, Duanesburgh; Abram Pearse, Niskayuna; Abram Dorn, Princetown; Simon Schermerhorn, Rotterdam. Chairman, Abraham Van Ingen; Clerk, Archibald L. Linn; Marshal, John S. Ten Eyck; Treasurer, John B. Clute.

A special act of the Legislature was passed April 25th of this year, authorizing the Board of Supervisors and Common Council of the city of Schenectady to sell the Court House, Jail and County Clerk's office for not less than ten thousand dollars, the proceeds of such sale to be expended in the erection of a new court house and jail, the corporation of Schenectady to be allowed the use of a room in the new structure for a common council chamber. Under the provisions of this act the then existing court house and jail could only be sold under the conditions that the same should be used and occupied for literary, scientific or religious purposes. By the powers jointly conferred on the Board of Supervisors and Common Council, this property was sold, through Dr. Eliphalet Nott, to Union College, June 15, 1831.

The location of the present Court House and Jail was selected, and the lot was purchased for the sum of \$1,900.00, of Jacob and John Dellamont.

The contract for building the Court House was let to John W. Teller, at the sum of \$9,964.00.

Total tax levied this year was \$9,295.70.

County tax, \$4,900.00.

1832.—Supervisors.—Harmanus Peek, First ward; Abraham Van Ingen, Second ward; Sidney B. Potter, Glenville; Joseph Gaige, Duanesburgh; Abram Pearse, Niskayuna; David Murray, Princetown; Harmanus A. Van Slyck, Rotterdam. Chairman, Abraham Van Ingen; Clerk, Archibald L. Linn; Marshal, John S. Ten Eyck; Treasurer, John B. Clute.

The entire tax levied was \$11,691.97.

1832.—Supervisors.—Isaac M. Schermerhorn, First ward; Abraham Van Ingen, Second ward; Peter H. Brooks, Glenville; David Wing, Duanesburgh; Morgan Strong, Niskayuna; Daniel Darrow, Princetown; Harmanus A. Van Slyck, Rotterdam, Chairman, Abraham Van Ingen; Clerk, Archibald L. Linn; Marshal, John S. Ten Eyck; Treasurer, John B. Clute.

Total tax levied this year was \$11,744.22.

Up to the present year the total valuation of the real and personal estate had remained at about the same amount since the organization of the county. This year it was increased nearly \$1,000,000, being \$2,765,000.

1834.—Supervisors.—Isaac M. Schermerhorn, First ward; Abraham Van Ingen, Second ward; David Ostrom, Glenville; Thomas Knight, Duanesburgh; Abraham Pearse, Niskayuna; David Murray, Princetown; Harmanus A. Van Slyck, Rotterdam. Officers same as last year.

Total tax levied this year was \$12,589.77.

1835.—Supervisors.—Isaac M. Schermerhorn; First ward; Abraham Van Ingen, Second ward; Daniel Smith, Glenville; Thomas Knight, Duanesburgh; Abraham Pearse, Niskayuna; David Murray, Princetown; John B. Schermerhorn, Rotterdam. Officers same as preceding year.

The total tax levied this year was \$14,557.22.

The following is each ward and town proportion of whole tax: First ward, \$2,560.53; Second ward, \$4,977.38; Glenville, \$2,228.78; Duanesburgh, \$2,046.14; Niskayuna, \$537.60; Princetown, \$717.01; Rotterdam, \$1,489.78.

1836.—Supervisors.—Isaac M. Schermerhorn, First ward; Abraham Van Ingen, Second ward; Theodore W. Sanders, Glenville; Abraham Pearse, Niskayuna; James Smealie, Princetown; Jacob I. Schermerhorn, Rotterdam. Officers same as for year 1834.

At the session of the Board a final settlement was made between the city and the Board of Supervisors for building the Court House, the city agreeing to accept \$1,250 in full settlement, \$250 to be paid this year, \$500 next year and \$500 the following year.

Total tax levied, \$15,518.16.

1837.—Supervisors.—Giles F. Yates, First ward; David M. Moore, Second ward; Robert Sanders, Third and Fourth wards (wards formed from the Second ward); Robert Sanders, Glenville; Marvin Strong, Duanesburgh; Harmanus A. Van Slyck, Rotterdam; James Smealie, Princetown; Abraham Pearse, Niskayuna. Officers same as preceding year.

Total tax levied, \$16,733.64.

1838.—Supervisors.—Isaac Riggs, First ward; James C. Magoffin, Second ward; William Anderson, Third and Fourth wards; Abner Smith, Glenville; Marvin Strong, Duanesburgh; Simon Schermerhorn, Rotterdam; William Gifford, Princetown; Abraham Pearse, Niskayuna. Chairman, Abraham Pearse; Clerk, A. L. Linn; Marshal, Bartholomew C. Vrooman.

The lot where the present County Clerk's office is situated was purchased this year by the Board

from Alexander G. Foudier for \$500, and a committee appointed to cause the erection thereon of a fire-proof County Clerk's and Surrogate's office, at a cost not exceeding \$2,000.

The total tax levied this year was \$18,766.74.

1839.—Supervisors—Isaac I. Yates, First ward; James C. Magoffin, Second ward; William Anderson, Third and Fourth wards; David F. Rees, Glenville; Marvin Strong, Duanesburgh; Garrett Van Vranken, Niskayuna; William Gifford, Princetown; Simon Schermerhorn, Rotterdam. Chairman, Marvin Strong; Clerk, James M. Bouck; Marshal, Cornelius J. Barhydt.

The total tax levied this year was \$19,984.09.

1840.—Supervisors—Nicholas Hansom, First ward; James C. Magoffin, Second ward; Joel Phillips, Third and Fourth wards; David Ostrom, Glenville; Benjamin F. Wood, Duanesburgh; Peter B. Noxon, Niskayuna; Alexander Clogston, Princetown; John P. Becker, Rotterdam. Chairman, James C. Magoffin; Clerk, James M. Bouck; Marshal, Cornelius J. Barhydt. The brick building on the east side of the almshouse was built this year.

Total tax levied this year was \$23,649.94.

1841.—Supervisors—Isaac I. Yates, First ward; James C. Magoffin, Second ward; James G. Van Voast, Third and Fourth wards; Nicholas Brooks, Glenville; Benjamin F. Wood, Duanesburgh; Garrett Van Vranken, Niskayuna; Alexander Clogston, Princetown; Abram Warren, Rotterdam. Officers same as preceding year.

Five hundred dollars was appropriated this year for the purpose of building school-houses in the city of Schenectady. Sheriff Mindert M. K. Wemple received the sum of fifty dollars for the execution of Charles Cook, murderer of Mrs. Merry, a resident of the town of Glenville. The tax levied this year was about the same as last.

1842.—Supervisors—Sidney B. Potter, First ward; Nicholas A. Vedder, Second ward; Peter Rowe, Third and Fourth wards; Jacob Carner, Glenville; Benjamin F. Wood, Duanesburgh; William Gordon, Princetown; Garrett Van Vranken, Niskayuna; Abraham Warren, Rotterdam. Chairman, Abraham Warren; Clerk, James M. Bouck; Marshal, Cornelius J. Barhydt.

March 28 of this year an act of the Legislature was passed creating the office of Police Justice of the city of Schenectady. The selection of this officer was duly delegated to the Board of Supervisors. Joseph H. Vrooman was chosen for this year. His salary was fixed at seven hundred dollars per year. The total tax levied this year was \$28,151.35.

1843.—Supervisors—Simon C. Groat, First ward; Nicholas A. Vedder, Second ward; Peter Rowe, Third and Fourth wards; Jacob Carner, Glenville; Perry T. Briggs, Duanesburgh; Morgan Strong, Niskayuna; John W. Shannon, Princetown; Abraham Warren, Rotterdam. Chairman, Abraham Warren; Clerk, Benjamin F. Patten; Marshal, Cornelius J. Barhydt.

The amount of taxes levied this year was nearly \$2,000 less than last year.

1844.—Supervisors—Isaac Riggs, First ward; Samuel Myers, Second ward; John G. Van Vorst, Third and Fourth wards; Peter Sanders, Glenville; Thomas Knight, Duanesburgh; Abraham Pearse, Niskayuna; John W. Shannon, Princetown; James T. Wasson, Rotterdam. Chairman, Abraham Pearse; Clerk, John Van Santvoord; Marshal, Bassett Vedder. The total tax levied this year was \$23,495.82.

1845.—Supervisors—Martin De Forest, First ward; John S. M. Barhydt, Second ward; Jabez Ward, Third and Fourth wards; Abraham W. Toll, Glenville; Thomas Knight, Duanesburgh; James R. Craig, Niskayuna; James Donnan, Princetown; James Allen, Rotterdam. Chairman, Thomas Knight; Clerk, Benjamin F. Potter; Marshal, O. S. De Forest. The amount of taxes levied was about the same as last year.

1846.—Supervisors—Martin De Forest, First ward; John S. M. Barhydt, Second ward; John I. Vrooman, Third and Fourth wards; Adam C. Van Patten, Glenville; Thomas Knight, Duanesburgh; James R. Craig, Niskayuna; James Donnan, Princetown; Abraham N. Bradt, Rotterdam.

Officers of the Board were the same as preceding year. \$853.45 was expended on repairs at the almshouse. Total tax levied this year was \$25,901.82.

1847.—Supervisors—Martin De Forest, First ward; Nicholas Barhydt, Second ward; John I. Vrooman, Third and Fourth wards; Abraham Conklin, Duanesburgh; Abraham W. Toll, Glenville; William Van Vranken, Niskayuna; James Templar, Princetown; James P. Wasson, Rotterdam. Chairman, Martin De Forest; Clerk, Benjamin F. Potter; Marshal, O. S. De Forest.

Under an act of the Legislature, passed this year, the offices of Judge and Surrogate were combined, and the first election of a person to this office occurred this year. The Board fixed the salary at one thousand dollars. Total tax levied this year was \$24,374.58.

1848.—Supervisors—Martin De Forest, First ward; Peter Banker, Second ward; Joshua Barker, Third and Fourth wards; Abraham Conklin, Duanesburgh; Reuben Ellwood, Glenville; William Van Vranken, Niskayuna; James Templar, Princetown; John W. Conklin, Rotterdam. Chairman, Abraham Conklin; Clerk and Marshal, same as last year.

Application was made and granted by the Freeman's Bridge Company for the right to build a bridge where the present bridge stands. The right was also extended to the Schenectady and Duanesburgh Plank Road Company and the Schenectady and Saratoga Plank Road Company to build plank roads.

The State and County tax this year amounted to \$10,500. Ward and town charges, \$2,295.10; city, \$8,507.74.

1849.—Supervisors—Martin De Forest, First ward; Peter Banker, Second ward; David P. Greene, Third and Fourth wards; Abram Conklin, Duanesburgh; Reuben Ellwood, Glenville; John Pearse, Nis-

kayuna; James Weart, Princetown; John W. Conklin, Rotterdam. Chairman, Peter Banker; Clerk, Stephen H. Johnson; Marshal, Green G. Crandall. The first local law for the preservation of game was framed by this Board this year. The application of the Fort Hunter and Albany Plank Road Company to extend a plank road through a part of this county was granted. The aggregate valuation of real and personal estate was returned at \$3,112,417.66. From 1833 to this year it had remained at about the same amount.

The total tax levied this year was \$32,833.15. State and county tax, \$15,400; city tax, \$12,400.69.

1850.—Supervisors—Stephen Yates, First ward; John S. M. Barhydt, Second ward; Solomon B. King, Third and Fourth Wards; Alexander Siddle, Jr., Duanesburgh; Adam C. Van Patten, Glenville; William V. Bradt, Niskayuna; James Weart, Princetown; N. I. Schermerhorn, Rotterdam. Chairman, Stephen Yates; Clerk, Benjamin F. Potter; Marshal, John C. Barhydt.

The total tax levied this year was \$27,616.43. The State and county tax was \$13,000.

1851.—Supervisors—Stephen Yates, First ward; Adrian Van Santvoord, Second ward; Solomon B. King, Third ward; Nicholas Barhydt, Fourth ward (by act of Legislature, March 21, 1851); Alexander Siddle, Jr., Duanesburgh; A. C. Van Patten, Glenville; William V. Bradt, Niskayuna; John Robinson, Jr., Princetown; John J. Schermerhorn, Rotterdam. Officers same as preceding year.

The following sums were levied upon the city this year: Support of poor, \$3,000; highways, \$2,000; Fire Department, \$2,000; Police, \$1,000; contingent, \$1,400.

The valuation of real and personal estate in the county this year was more than double over preceding year, being \$7,149,113.

Total tax levied this year was \$34,150.66.

1852.—Supervisors—Stephen Yates, First ward; A. M. Vedder, Second ward; A. F. Kingsbury, Third ward; Nicholas Barhydt, Fourth ward; Alonzo Ladd, Duanesburgh; Nicholas Brooks, Glenville (subsequently elected Sheriff; Reuben Groot was appointed to fill vacancy); James Van Vranken, Niskayuna; James Robinson, Jr., Princetown; George Vedder, Rotterdam. Officers same as preceding year, with the exception of Alexander J. Thomson, Clerk.

The county tax this year was \$23,501.10. Of this sum \$5,039 was appropriated to schools by law of 1851. Total tax levied, \$38,493.68.

1853.—Supervisors—Sidney B. Potter, First ward; Alexander M. Vedder, Second ward; Francis Fisk, Third ward; Nicholas Barhydt, Fourth ward; Alonzo Ladd, Duanesburgh; Bracey Tobey, Glenville; James Van Vranken, Niskayuna; James McNee, Princetown; N. I. Schermerhorn, Rotterdam. Chairman, Sidney B. Potter; Clerk, John Bradt; Marshal, George Waggoner. Total tax levied this year was \$40,427.99.

1854.—Supervisors—Albert Ward, First ward; Alexander M. Vedder, Second ward; Peter

Vedder, Third ward; Livingston Ellwood, Fourth ward; James Donnan, Duanesburgh; Minard Knights, Glenville; John H. Putnam, Niskayuna; James McNee, Princetown; George Veeder, Rotterdam. Chairman, Alexander M. Vedder; Clerk, Simon Calkins; Marshal, John T. Van Potten. Total tax levied this year was \$36,744.05.

1855.—Supervisors—James R. Craig, First ward; Sybrant G. Van Debogart, Second ward; Levi Case, Third ward; Robert C. Dorn, Fourth ward; Alexander Liddle, Jr., Duanesburgh; Christian H. Brooks, Glenville; John Pearse, Niskayuna; Samuel B. Bradshaw, Princetown; Moses Chism, Rotterdam. Chairman, James R. Craig; Clerk, James J. Marlette; Marshal, John T. Van Patten.

The city of Schenectady raised by tax this year, by act of the Legislature, \$3,100 for school purposes. County and State tax this year was \$26,500. Total tax levied, \$46,708.38.

1856.—Supervisors—Sidney B. Potter, First ward; S. G. Van Debogart, Second ward; Francis Van Debogart, Third ward; Abraham Vrooman, Fourth ward; Angus McIntosh, Duanesburgh; Philip R. Toll, Glenville; John H. Putnam, Niskayuna; Samuel B. Bradshaw, Princetown; S. J. Schermerhorn, Rotterdam.

Chairman, S. G. Van Debogart; Clerk and Marshal same as preceding year.

Under law of State passed April 9, 1854, \$6,000 was raised, levied on the city of Schenectady, for school purposes this year.

Amount of taxes levied upon the county this year was about the same as last year.

1857.—Supervisors—James R. Craig, First ward; S. G. Van Debogart, Second ward; Francis Van Debogart, Third ward; L. M. Clement, Fourth ward; Angus McIntosh, Duanesburgh; Philip R. Toll, Glenville; William H. Lake, Niskayuna; Andrew Kelly, Princetown; Henry M. Crane, Rotterdam. Officers same as last year.

Total tax, \$73,610.19.

Among the sums levied upon the city of Schenectady were the following: Fire purposes, \$1,200; lighting streets, \$4,000; poor, \$2,500; police, \$1,000; school purposes, \$8,000. The entire city tax was \$25,840.25.

Ward and town charges were \$7,770.50.

1858.—Supervisors—Jay Cady, First ward; S. G. Van Debogart, Second ward; Francis Van Debogart, Third ward; Ira Brownell, Fourth ward; Benjamin F. Wood, Duanesburgh; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville; Benjamin C. Lansing, Niskayuna; Andrew Kelly, Princetown; Henry M. Crane, Rotterdam. Chairman, S. G. Van Debogart; Clerk, H. Maynard Aiken and J. J. Marlette; Marshal, John S. M. Barhydt.

Total tax levied this year was \$76,125.77.

1859.—The Supervisors this year were: Peter Dorsch, First ward; William H. Anthony, Second ward; Jacob Vedder, Third ward; William H. Helmer, Fourth ward; William Young, Duanesburgh; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville; John I. Vrooman, Niskayuna; John Marlette, Princetown; William Akin, Rotterdam. Chairman, William

H. Anthony ; Clerk, James J. Marlette ; Marshal, John G. Van Patten.

The Excise Commissioners made a report this year, from which we find that \$3,005 was received from licenses granted.

Total tax this year was \$64,749.76.

1860.—Supervisors—A. J. Thompson, First ward ; William H. Anthony, Second ward ; Andrew Frame, Third ward ; Andrew McMullen, Fourth ward ; Nicholas Barhydt, Fifth ward (formed March 8, 1860, by an act of the Legislature) ; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville ; John Marlette, Princetown ; Samuel Wingate, Duanesburgh ; James T. Wasson, Rotterdam ; John I. Vrooman, Niskayuna. Chairman, James T. Wasson ; Clerk, Allen H. Jackson.

From the report made by the Excise Commissioners this year, it appears that ninety-one licenses were granted in the county, producing a revenue of \$2,893.76.

The total tax levied this year was \$65,240.67.

The city tax this year was \$26,882.42.

1861.—Supervisors—Alexander J. Thompson, First ward ; S. G. Van Debogart, Second ward ; Jacob Vedder, Third ward ; Andrew McMullen, Fourth ward ; James H. Ward, Fifth ward ; Samuel Wingate, Duanesburgh ; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville ; William Van Vranken, Niskayuna ; Thomas Passage, Princetown ; James McMillan, Jr., Rotterdam. Chairman, James H. Ward ; Clerk, Allen H. Jackson, part term, Walter T. L. Sanders remainder.

Total tax this year was \$68,015.11.

1862.—Supervisors—Simon V. Swits, First ward ; William H. Anthony, Second ward ; Jacob Vedder, Third ward ; Cornelius Thomson, Fourth ward ; James H. Ward, Fifth ward ; Samuel Wingate, Duanesburgh ; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville ; William Van Vranken, Niskayuna ; Alexander Gifford, Princetown ; James McMillan, Jr., Rotterdam.

Chairman, William H. Anthony ; remaining officers same as preceding year.

We have now arrived at that period in the history of the Board when the war for the preservation of the Union had reached gigantic proportions. The present Board of Supervisors, and all subsequent boards during the war, exhibited a patriotic devotion to the Union.

After the organization of the Board, a special meeting was held August 16th of this year, and a resolution, of which the following is part, was unanimously passed:

“Resolved, that we, the Supervisors of the County of Schenectady, will continue to pay to all volunteers enlisting in the companies now forming, or to be formed, to fill up the quotas required by the general Government to be raised by this county, either upon the first or second calls of the President for 300,000 men upon each call, the sum of \$50 to each of such volunteers, in addition to the bounties already provided by the State and general governments.”

The enunciation of the passage of the resolution was received with much applause and cheering

by a large body of anxious and expectant citizens, who were present awaiting in silent solemnity the action of the board.

Under the provision of this resolution the sum of \$29,250 was expended this year, and the raising of this amount by taxation was legalized by legislative act passed the subsequent year. The total tax levied this year was \$96,200.24.

1863.—Supervisors—Martin De Forest, First ward ; Wm. H. Anthony, Second ward ; Sidney C. Ellsworth, Third ward ; Peter Van Dyck, Fourth ward ; James H. Ward, Fifth ward ; Samuel Wingate, Duanesburgh ; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville ; Hiram Baumes, Niskayuna ; Alexander Gifford, Princetown ; James McMillan, Jr., Rotterdam. Chairman, James H. Ward ; Clerk, Walter T. L. Sanders ; Marshal, Benjamin F. Sheldon.

At this session of the Board, the sum of \$300 was appropriated to each volunteer recruited in the county under the proclamation of the President dated October 10, 1863, calling for 300,000 men.

Twenty-six thousand dollars in bonds of the County of Schenectady, of \$500 each, were issued this year to discharge the liabilities incurred under the resolution of the Board for the payment of bounties to volunteers.

The total tax levied this year was \$109,785.75.

1864.—Supervisors—Martin De Forest, First ward ; William H. Anthony, Second ward ; Sidney C. Ellsworth, Third ward ; Peter Van Dyck, Fourth ward ; James H. Ward, Fifth ward ; Samuel Wingate, Duanesburgh ; John L. Turnbull, Duanesburgh (appointed to fill vacancy caused by removal of Samuel Wingate from town) ; Aaron Swart, Glenville ; Hiram Baumes, Niskayuna ; Alexander Gifford, Princetown ; James McMillan, Jr., Rotterdam. Chairman and Clerk same as last year.

From the report of the County Treasurer this year, it appears the Finance Committee had given orders to 279 men, amounting to \$83,700, for bounty money, from December 15, 1863, to July 9, 1864.

A tax was levied upon the city this year, made payable June 1, of \$50,000 to pay bounties.

The total tax levied this year was \$228,718.36, the largest tax ever imposed upon the county. Over \$120,000 of this sum was for bounties.

1865.—Supervisors—Martin De Forest, First ward ; William H. Anthony, Second ward ; Sidney C. Ellsworth, Third ward ; Peter Van Dyck, Fourth ward ; Nicholas H. Swart, Fifth ward ; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville ; John I. Vrooman, Jr., Niskayuna ; William Dougall, Princetown ; Jacob D. Wemple, Rotterdam. Chairman, Martin De Forest ; Clerk, Walter T. L. Sanders ; Marshal, John T. Van Patten.

At this session of the Board, the Provost Marshal, J. P. Baths, of the Eighteenth Congressional District (comprising Saratoga, Schenectady, Montgomery, Fulton and Hamilton counties), made a report concerning military affairs in the district, from which we make the following extracts:

The corrected enrollment, made in 1865, shows 12,418 men in the district liable to military duty.

Of this number Schenectady County was credited with 2,110 men. The whole number of men mustered into service in the district was 7,157 men.

The following was the amount of bounties paid by the city and respective towns of the county up to October 31, 1865:

City, \$183,750; Duanesburgh, \$113,394; Glenville, \$88,720.53; Princetown, \$36,000; Rotterdam, \$75,292; Niskayuna, \$24,756.94. A special tax of \$50,750 for bounty money was levied upon the city of Schenectady, to be paid by the 3d of May, 1866.

The total tax levied this year was \$150,196.86.

1866.—Supervisors—Arthur W. Hunter, First ward; William H. Anthony, Second ward; Richard Rosa, Third ward; Peter Van Dyck, Fourth ward; Frederick Vedder, Fifth ward; William Mallock, Duanesburgh; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville; John I. Vrooman, Jr., Niskayuna; William Dougall, Princetown; James McMillan, Jr., Rotterdam. Chairman, Richard Rosa; Clerk and Marshal same as preceding year.

Total tax levied this year was \$140,584.93.

1867.—Supervisors—Jonas H. Crane, First ward; William H. Anthony, Second ward; Richard Rosa, Third ward; Peter Van Dyck, Fourth ward; Frederick Vedder, Fifth ward; William Mallock, Duanesburgh; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville; John I. Vrooman, Jr., Niskayuna; William Dougall, Princetown; James McMillan, Jr., Rotterdam. Chairman, William Dougall; Clerk and Marshal same as preceding year.

This year \$15,407.30 was raised in the city of Schenectady to defray expenses of the capital police, as provided by the amendatory acts to Chapter 555 of the Laws of 1865.

The total tax levied this year was \$149,210.68.

A special tax of \$46,575, to be paid by May 3, 1868, was levied upon the city to fund its bounty debt.

1868.—Supervisors—Jonas H. Crane, First ward; William H. Anthony, Second ward; Harmon Seymour, Third ward; Peter Van Dyck, Fourth ward; Frederick Vedder, Fifth ward; William Mallock, Duanesburgh; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville; John I. Vrooman, Jr., Niskayuna; Andrew T. Wingate, Princetown; James Clute, Rotterdam. Chairman, Harmon Seymour; Clerk and Marshal, same as last year.

Total tax this year, \$123,774.54.

1869.—Supervisors—Jonas H. Crane, First ward; William H. Anthony, Second ward; Peter Vedder, Third ward; Peter Van Dyck, Fourth ward; Frederick Vedder, Fifth ward; William Mallock, Duanesburgh; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville; Nicholas J. Van Vranken, Niskayuna; Andrew T. Wingate, Princetown; H. Maynard Aiken, Rotterdam. Chairman, H. Maynard Aiken; Clerk and Marshal same as preceding year.

The sum of \$10,411.78 was expended upon the county fair and parade grounds this year.

Total tax levied, \$148,165.59.

1870.—Supervisors—Jonas H. Crane, First ward; William H. Anthony, Second ward; John G.

Greene, Third ward; Peter Van Dyck, Fourth ward; Frederick Vedder, Fifth ward; William Mallock, Duanesburgh; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville; Nicholas J. Van Vranken, Niskayuna; Walter Bradshaw, Princetown; John M. Veeder, Rotterdam. Chairman, Nicholas J. Van Vranken; Clerk, G. Gilbert; Marshal, John G. Van Patten.

Ten thousand dollars was appropriated this year for the enlargement of the County Clerk's and Surrogate's office. The lot adjoining the old office was purchased for this purpose for \$5,000.

Total tax levied, \$160,947.65.

1871.—Supervisors—Jonas H. Crane, First ward; Charles G. Ellis, Second ward; John G. Greene, Third ward; William H. Clark, Fourth ward; Harrison Clute and Thomas Shannon (the latter appointed to fill vacancy occasioned by election of Harrison Clute, Superintendent of Poor); Emmett O'Neill, Duanesburgh; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville; Walter Bradshaw, Princetown; John I. Vrooman, Jr., Niskayuna; John M. Veeder, Rotterdam. Chairman, Walter Bradshaw; Clerk and Marshal, same as preceding year.

Total tax levied, \$138,693.20.

1872.—Supervisors—A. W. Hunter, First ward; Charles G. Ellis, Second ward; John G. Greene, Third ward; William H. Clark, Fourth ward; William H. McClyman, Fifth ward; Emmett O'Neill, Duanesburgh; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville; Christopher O. Hamlin, Niskayuna; Walter Bradshaw, Princetown; John M. Veeder, Rotterdam. Chairman, Emmett O'Neill; Clerk, G. Gilbert; Marshal, Solomon Bearup.

Total tax levied, \$166,625.08.

1873.—Supervisors—James R. Craig, First ward; Charles G. Ellis, Second ward; John G. Greene, Third ward; Bartholomew O'Connell, Fourth ward; William H. McClyman, Fifth ward; Emmett O'Neill, Duanesburgh; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville; Christopher O. Hamlin, Niskayuna; Walter Bradshaw, Princetown; John M. Veeder, Rotterdam. Chairman, Christopher O. Hamlin; Clerk, G. Gilbert; Marshal, John G. Van Patten. April 21st of this year an act of the Legislature was passed authorizing the Board of Supervisors to sell a portion of the poor-house farm; 187 lots were sold at auction for the sum of \$42,083.

Total tax levied, \$149,056.57.

1874.—Supervisors—Jonas H. Crane, First ward; William H. Anthony, Second ward; Hugh Reynolds, Third ward; Martin Swart, Fourth ward; Garrett S. Veeder, Fifth ward; Emmett O'Neill, Duanesburgh; Charles P. Sanders, Glenville; Christopher O. Hamlin, Niskayuna; Walter Bradshaw, Princetown; Seeley Patterson, Rotterdam. Chairman, Seely Patterson; Clerk, Josiah Van Vranken; Marshal, John G. Van Patten.

Total tax levied, \$177,744.78.

1875.—Supervisors—Jonas H. Crane, First ward; William H. Anthony, Second ward; Hugh Reynolds, Third ward; Martin Swart, Fourth ward; Garrett S. Veeder, Fifth ward; Arthur D. Mead, Duanesburgh; Philip R. Toll,

Glenville; Christopher O. Hamlin, Niskayuna; Alexander Gifford, Princetown; Jacob D. Wemple, Rotterdam. Chairman, Jonas H. Crane; remaining officers same as preceding year. Total tax levied, \$184,441.72.

1876.—Supervisors—A. W. Hunter, First ward; William H. Anthony, Second ward; Hugh Reynolds, Third ward; Lewis Vrooman, Fourth ward; William G. Van Patten, Fifth ward; George Lasher, Duaneburgh; Reuben Groot, Glenville; Christopher O. Hamlin, Niskayuna; Alexander Gifford, Princetown; Isaac Wemple, Rotterdam. Chairman, William H. Anthony; Clerk, Josiah Van Vranken; Marshal, John T. Van Patten. For a number of years heretofore the aggregate valuations of real and personal estate in the county had been returned by the assessors at about five and one-half million dollars. This year the aggregate valuation was increased to \$6,500,690.03. Total tax levied, \$158,002.52.

1877.—Supervisors—A. W. Hunter, First ward; Robert Cornell, Second ward; James McDermott, Third ward; Lewis Vrooman, Fourth ward; William G. Van Patten, Fifth ward; Arthur D. Mead, Duaneburgh; Reuben Groot, Glenville; Christopher O. Hamlin, Niskayuna; Alexander Gifford, Princetown; Isaac Wemple, Rotterdam. Chairman, Arthur D. Mead; Clerk, Josiah Van Vranken; Marshal, John G. Van Patten. Total tax about as preceding year.

1878.—Supervisors—A. W. Hunter, First ward; Robert Cornell, Second ward; James McDermott, Third ward; Peter Van Dyck, Fourth ward; F. T. Van Patten, Fifth ward; George Lasher, Duaneburgh; John A. Taws, Princetown; James Turnbull, Rotterdam; Christopher O. Hamlin, Niskayuna; Reuben Groot, Glenville. Chairman, George Lasher; Clerk, Gilbert De Graff; Marshal, John T. Van Patten. Total tax levied, \$142,308.31.

1879.—Supervisors—A. W. Hunter, First ward; Hiram J. Ingersoll, Second ward; James Flinn, Third ward; Lewis Clement, Fourth ward; F. T. Van Patten, Fifth ward; John W. Head, Duaneburgh; Reuben Groot, Glenville; Christopher O. Hamlin, Niskayuna; John A. Taws, Princetown; James Turnbull, Rotterdam. Chairman, John W. Head; Clerk, Gilbert De Graff; Marshal, John T. Van Patten.

At this session a special act of the Legislature was passed abolishing the office of Keeper at the Almshouse, the duties of which office were united with those devolving upon the Superintendent of Poor.

Total tax levied this year, \$143,073.59.

1880.—Supervisors—A. W. Hunter, First ward; Henry Bradt, Second ward; Francis Cain, Third ward; Peter Van Dyck, Fourth ward; F. T. Van Patten, Fifth ward; George Lasher, Duaneburgh; Alexander Donnan, Princetown; Thomas W. Winne, Niskayuna; Reuben Groot, Glenville; James Turnbull, Rotterdam. Chairman, Reuben Groot; Clerk, Patrick H. Cain; Marshal, John T. Van Patten.

Total tax levied this year, \$142,753.07.

1881.—Supervisors—A. W. Hunter, First ward; Charles W. Sanders, Second ward; Francis Cain, Third ward; Peter Van Dyck, Fourth ward; George M. Bostwick, Fifth ward; James W. Waddell, Duaneburgh; Reuben Groot, Glenville; Samuel A. Weast, Rotterdam; Alexander Donnan, Princetown; Thomas W. Winne, Niskayuna. Chairman, Reuben Groot; Clerk, P. H. Cain; Marshal, John T. Van Patten.

Total tax about the same as preceding year.

1882.—Supervisors—A. W. Hunter, First ward; Levi A. Young, Second ward; Francis Cain and Patrick H. Cain (the latter appointed to fill vacancy caused by death of Francis Cain), Third ward; Peter Van Dyck, Fourth ward; Jerome B. Dow, Fifth ward; James T. Wyatt, Glenville; James T. Waddell, Duaneburgh; Thomas W. Winne, Niskayuna; Samuel A. Weast, Rotterdam; James Weast, Princetown. Chairman, A. W. Hunter; Clerk, George M. Bostwick; Marshal, John T. Van Patten. Total tax levied, \$151,817.23.

1883.—Supervisors—A. W. Hunter, First ward; N. J. Swart, Second ward; P. H. Cain, Third ward; Seth L. Clute, Fourth ward; Ephraim Clow, Fifth ward; James W. Waddell, Duaneburgh; Thomas W. Winne, Niskayuna; James Weast, Princetown; S. J. Schermerhorn, Rotterdam. Chairman, A. W. Hunter; Clerk, John E. Myers; Marshal, John T. Van Patten.

At this session of the Board the aggregate valuations of the personal and real estate was increased from \$6,542,448 for preceding year, to \$13,281,490.05 for this year. Total tax levied, \$164,364.78.

Four of the city members of this Board made an appeal to the State Assessors, claiming that the equalization of assessment, as made by a majority of the Board, resulted in great injustice to the taxpayers of the city. A hearing was had before the State Assessors in this city in June of the following year, when the appeal of the city members was sustained, and the various towns of the county were ordered and did pay back to the city the several amounts wrongfully, as was claimed by the State Assessors, assessed upon the city.

1884.—Supervisors—A. W. Hunter, First ward; Jacob Barringer, Second ward; Patrick H. Cain, Third ward; Lewis Vrooman, Fourth ward; George Susholz, Fifth ward; John A. McClure, Duaneburgh; James T. Wyatt, Glenville; John C. Myers, Rotterdam; James Weast, Princetown; Thomas W. Winne, Niskayuna. Chairman, James T. Wyatt; Clerk, Omie F. Vedder; Marshal, John T. Van Patten.

Total tax levied this year was \$183,664.65; State tax, \$29,880.64; county tax, \$33,898.13; city charges, \$95,346.73; town charges, \$24,538.85.

Included in the city charges were the following items: Poor, \$5,000.00; schools, \$17,000.00; for deficiency, 1883 (by special act of Legislature), \$13,500.00; extinguishment of fires, \$12,000.00; lighting streets, \$10,000.00; police, \$9,500.00.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF POOR.

Previous to 1824, each town in all the counties of the State supported its own poor, under statutes passed by the Legislature, but which, however humane and liberal, were imperfect compared with our existing laws. November 27, 1824, a law was passed for the establishment of a poor-house in several counties of the State. April 11, 1826, a law was passed authorizing the establishment of a poor-house in the county of Schenectady. This act was in the main similar to the law passed November 27, 1824. The number of superintendents was limited to three and not more than five. It was also provided in this act that the poor sent to the county poor-house from the city and several towns should be a charge upon the city or towns from which they were sent.

The present county poor-house and the adjoining farm, before the passage of this act, were used as an almshouse by the city and the present towns of Rotterdam and Glenville. On the 9th day of December, 1825, a committee was appointed by the board for the purpose of purchasing this property. The price agreed upon was \$2,000. The act of April 11, 1826, permitted this sale, which was consummated July 15, 1826.

The first Superintendents of Poor were: David Boyd, Cornelius Z. Van Santvoord, John Wood, Jacob I. Schermerhorn and David Smith. They were appointed for a term of one year. The first poor-house keeper was Henry Clute.

August 1, 1826, the poor-house was first opened for the reception of county poor.

The first year the Superintendents made a contract with the keeper for the support, maintenance and clothing of the county paupers for sixty cents each per week, the keeper being allowed the products of the farm and the use of the buildings, and whatever labor he could obtain from the able-bodied paupers.

The first report was sent by the Superintendents to the Board of Supervisors, November 14, 1826, from which we find that from August 1st to October 30th, the entire expense of the county poor-house was \$321.00; the whole number of paupers, 38, divided as follows: City, 16; County 11; Rotterdam, 3; Glenville, 6; Princetown, 2. The Superintendents reported that they had engaged Dr. John La Tonelier as almshouse physician, at an annual salary of \$75.

The Board of Supervisors prescribed the laws and regulations governing the poor-house, and the rules to be observed by the inmates. The Superintendents reported as follows: "That the poor-house and paupers have been visited every week by one of the Superintendents; the paupers always found clean and cheerful; and the house clean, and everything in good order. The by-laws, rules and regulations laid down by the Board of Supervisors have been strictly adhered to."

The following year the Superintendents made a contract with Henry Clute to keep the paupers at fifty cents per week, under the same conditions as last year.

This year the offices of poor-house and jail physician were united into one office, and an annual salary of \$120 allowed. David Low was elected as such physician. The total expense of the poor-house for the year was \$481.14.

In 1829, the sum of \$150 was appropriated for the purpose of building a lunatic asylum on the poor-house property. The Superintendent reported that \$900 would be necessary to defray the expenses of the poor for the following year.

In 1830, the number of Superintendents was reduced by the Board of Supervisors from five to three.

The reports of the Superintendents for this and the following years are so limited that few facts of interest can be obtained.

In 1831, J. I. S. Van Epps, Henry Peek and William Carpenter were Superintendents of Poor. From the report of these officers it appears the expenses of the poor-house were \$1,316.63 for the preceding year, \$500 of which sum was used to pay an indebtedness of previous year; \$800 was raised this year for poor-house purposes.

The Superintendents for 1833 were: Henry Peek, Henry Lovett and William A. S. North. \$1,200 was raised this year for support of the poor-house.

Henry Peek, William A. S. North and Abner H. Smith were appointed Superintendents for 1834. \$1,400 was raised for County poor-house this year.

For 1835, Abner Smith, Simon Schermerhorn and John Van Voast were Superintendents. \$2,127 was raised for county poor this year.

For 1836, the same Superintendents were appointed as in the preceding year.

From this year to 1840 the amounts raised for county poor ranged from \$1,600 to \$2,200. The reports for these years were not recorded in the minutes of the Board of Supervisors, and could not be found.

It had been the custom of the Board of Supervisors to visit the poor-house annually for inspection. After inspecting the premises in 1840, it was determined that insufficient room was provided for the paupers, and, in consequence, the brick building on the east side of the poor-house was constructed this year. A barn was also built at the same time.

The following sums were raised this year: \$2,000 for support of poor, \$500 for furniture for new building, and \$602 to pay indebtedness for poor purposes for preceding year.

The Superintendents for 1841 and 1842 were: John Van Voast, Wm. A. S. North and John Clark. The sum of \$1,800 was raised each year for county poor purposes.

Wm. A. S. North, John Van Voast and Daniel Smith were chosen Superintendents for 1843, and Daniel Smith, David M. Moore and John Van Voast for 1844. \$1,600 was raised in 1843, and \$1,250 in 1844 for county poor.

In 1844 the Board of Supervisors, deeming the appointment of three Superintendents of Poor to be unnecessary and too expensive, petitioned the Legis-

lature for the passage of an act permitting the Board to appoint but one Superintendent of Poor. The passage of such a law was not effected until a number of years after.

The Superintendents from 1845 to 1848 were: Benjamin F. Wood, Abraham A. Van Voast and Abijah Freeman; \$15,000 was raised in 1845 and \$1,600 in 1846 for the maintenance of the county poor; \$853.45 was expended in 1846 on an addition and repairs at the poor-house.

In 1848, the Superintendents of Poor were required to give bonds in the sum of \$3,000 each. The Superintendents for this year were: John F. Clute, Philip H. Dederick and William S. Kelly.

The Superintendents for 1849 were: Joshua Parker, Abraham Vrooman and Philip H. Dederick. From 1848 to 1854, the cost of maintaining the poor-house ranged from \$1,500 to \$2,000. In 1854 a difficulty arose between the Board of Supervisors and the Superintendents of Poor as to which body was delegated the power of appointing a keeper at the poor-house. The Board appointed Henry Marcellus and the Superintendents selected William Chism. After legal investigation it was settled by allowing the Superintendents to make their own appointment; but that it was not an acknowledgment of their legal rights, is evinced by the fact that the following year the Board appointed a keeper, and continued to do so until this office was abolished in 1879.

An act was passed by the Legislature, in 1854, reducing the number of Superintendents of Poor to one, and providing that such officer should be elected by the people for a term of three years. The first Superintendent elected to this office, under this law, was Nicholas I. Schermerhorn in 1856. His term began January 1, 1857.

From the report made by the Superintendent in 1860, we find that there were 73 paupers at the poor-house November 1 of that year, and that the entire expense of the county poor for the year ending November 1 was \$9,280.67.

In 1861, the brick building on the west side of the poor-house was erected for the purpose of accommodating the insane of the county, at a cost of \$3,000.

For the year ending November 1, 1862, the whole expense of the county poor was \$9,270.59.

From 1862 to the present time, the yearly expense of the county poor-house has averaged between eleven and twelve thousand dollars. In 1866 it was \$15,453.12. The maximum amount was reached in 1878, when it was \$16,199, and the lowest in 1880, when it was \$8,283. The average number of paupers has been between seventy and eighty.

In 1873, a portion of the poor-house farm was sold at auction in small lots to private individuals. 187 lots were disposed of.

In 1879, a special act of the Legislature was passed abolishing the office of poor-house keeper; the duties of this office were united with those devolving upon the Superintendent of the Poor. Since the passage of this law, the Superintendent has resided at the poor-house.

For a number of years after the erection of the Asylum building in 1861, the county took care of its insane, but in 1875 most of the incurable cases were removed to the State Asylum at Ovid, and a few years after, all incurable patients were removed to this institution. At the present time the county supports none of its insane at the county house.

LIST OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF POOR AND KEEPERS.

Superintendents.—1856–1866, W. I. Schermerhorn; 1866–1869, John F. Clute; 1869–1872, W. J. McIntosh; 1872–1879, Harrison Clute; 1879–1885, William G. Van Patten; 1885, Anthony Walton.

Keepers.—1857–1866, William Chism; 1866–1871, Francis Veeder; 1872–1876, John I. Vrooman; 1876–1879, Philip Eygner; 1879–1880, William E. Dederick.

COUNTY AND STATE OFFICERS.

Following will be found as complete a list of the officials, both County and State, from Schenectady County, as could be obtained. Those not given in the following pages will be found in separate articles in different portions of this work.

Robert Yates was a Member of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Provincial Congresses of New York; was a Member of the First Convention of New York, in 1777, to form a constitution, and a member of the committee to draft it; was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of New York, and finally its Chief Justice. He was a member of the Convention of 1788 to ratify the Federal Constitution.

Rineis Schermerhorn was Senator under the first Constitution, 1777 to 1781.

John Sanders was Senator under the first Constitution, 1799–1802, and member of the Council of Appointment in 1800. His associates were De Witt Clinton, Ambrose and John Roseboom.

Simon Veeder was Senator under the first Constitution from 1804 to 1806.

Henry Yates, Jr., was Senator under the first Constitution from 1810 to 1814, and from 1818 to 1822. He was also a member of the Council of Appointment in 1812 and 1818.

Gerret S. Veeder was the first Judge of the Schenectady Court of Common Pleas, appointed soon after the organization of the county in 1809.

Among those who represented Schenectady in the General Assembly from 1615 to 1768 were the following: Karl Hansen Toll, Jacob Glen, Arent—Bradt, Abraham Glen, Nicholas Schuyler, Jacob Van Slyck, Isaac Vrooman, Ryer Schermerhorn, Jacobus Mynderse and Nicholas Groot.

Henry Glen was member of Assembly in 1786, 1787 and 1810. He was also member of the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Congresses of the United States, from 1793 to 1802, and also member of the First, Second and Third Provincial Congresses, 1775–1776.

Harmanus Peek was member of the Sixteenth Congress from 1819 to 1821.

William North was member of the Assembly 1792, 1794, 1795, 1796 and 1710, and several times Speaker of that body. In 1798, during a recess of the Legislature, he was appointed a Senator of the United States by Governor John Jay, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the resignation of John Gloss Hobart.

MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY.

1798-1800, 1802, 1804-1807, 1813, Joseph Shurtliff; 1811-1812, James Boyd and John Young; 1813, Alexander Combs; 1814, Abraham Van Ingen and Lawrence Vrooman; 1815, Abraham Van Ingen and John Victory; 1816, Harmanus Peek and Harry Fryer; 1817, Harmanus Van Slyck and John Victory; 1818, Daniel L. Van Antwerp and Simon A. Veeder; 1819, James Frost and Simon A. Groot; 1820, Christian Haverly and Marinus Willett; 1821, Richard McMichael and Garrit Veeder; 1822, James Walker and John F. D. Veeder; 1823, Peter M. Bronck; 1824, Isaac Riggs; 1825, John S. Vrooman; 1826, Robert Sanders; 1827-1830, Alonzo C. Paige; 1831, Aaron Carroll; 1832, Abram Dorn; 1833, Cornelius C. Van Vranken; 1834, Simon Schermerhorn; 1835, David Ostrom; 1836, John B. Duane; 1837, Thomas Knight; 1838, Silas H. Marsh; 1839, Silas H. Marsh; 1840, Theodore W. Sanders; 1841, Abraham Pearse; 1842, Jonathan C. Burnham; 1843, Edward H. Walton; 1844, Archibald L. Linn; 1845, William Gifford; 1846, David M. Moore; 1847, David Caw; 1848, Abraham W. Toll; 1849, Israel A. Green; 1850, James Allen; 1851, Reuben Ellwood; 1852, James Donnan; 1853, Wm. Van Vranken; 1854, Matthew Winne, Jr.; 1855, James Donnan; 1856, James Rodgers; 1857, Nicholas Barhydt; 1858, Angus McIntosh; 1859, Charles Thomas; 1860, Peter Dorsch; 1861, Alonzo Macomber; 1862, Simon J. Schermerhorn; 1863, John McShea, Jr.; 1864, Charles Stanford; 1865, Charles Stanford; 1866, John C. Ellis; 1867, Chas. G. Ellis; 1868, Robert Furman; 1869, Henry M. Crane; 1870, Gershom Banker; 1871, Gershom Banker; 1872, William Greenhalgh; 1873, Daniel P. McQueen; 1874, Daniel P. McQueen; 1875, Samuel T. Benedict; 1876, Emmett O'Neill; 1877, Walter T. L. Sanders; 1878, Arthur D. Mead; 1879, Daniel P. McQueen; 1880, Arthur D. Mead; 1881, George Lasher; 1882, John D. Campbell; 1883, Christopher O. Hamlin; 1884, John W. Veeder; 1885, Edward D. Cotter.

STATE SENATORS.

John Veeder, 1806, 1808-9; Joseph C. Yates, 1807, 1808; Henry Yates, Jr., 1811-1814, 1818-1821; Alonzo C. Paige, 1837, 1839-1840; Stephen H. Johnson, 1850-1; Charles Stanford, 1866-9.

COUNTY JUDGES.

1809, Gerrit S. Veeder; 1812, Gardner Cleveland; 1823, David Boyd; 1835, Samuel W. Jones; 1840, Archibald L. Linn; 1845, Samuel W. Jones; 1851, Stephen H. Johnson; 1855, John Sanders; 1859, Stephen H. Johnson; 1865,

Judson S. Landon; 1869, Walter T. L. Sanders; 1873, Austin A. Yates; 1879, David C. Beattie.

COUNTY SURROGATES.

1809, William J. Teller; 1813, Robert Hudson; 1815, William J. Teller; 1816, John Yates; 1821, Giles F. Yates; 1840, John Saunders; 1844-1847, David Cady Smith. Since the latter date the County Judges have acted as Surrogates.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

1818, John K. Paige; 1823, Alonzo C. Paige; 1839, Platt Potter; 1847, Benjamin F. Potter; 1850, Samuel L. Baker; 1851, James Fuller; 1851, John Van Santvoord; 1853, Samuel T. Freeman; 1856, Simon Calkins; 1856, Judson S. Landon; 1862, John G. McChesney; 1865, John L. Hill; 1868, Austin A. Yates; 1873, Alonzo P. Strong; 1874, David C. Beattie; 1877, Charles E. Palmer; 1880, J. Teller Schoolcraft.

SHERIFFS.

1809, James V. S. Riley; 1810, John V. Van Ingen; 1811, James V. S. Riley; 1813, John Brown; 1815, Gideon Holliday; 1818, Isaac Riggs; 1821, Lewis Eaton; 1822, A. Van Slyck; 1825, John F. D. Vedder; 1828, Gershom Van Voast; 1831, Isaac I. Yates; 1834, Matthew Putman; 1837, Myndert M. R. Wemple; 1840, David F. Reese; 1843, Anthony H. Van Slyck; 1846, John G. Van Voast; 1849, John F. Clute; 1852, Nicholas Brooks; 1855, Obadiah L. De Forest; 1856, Philip Dederick; 1858, Norman M. F. Clute; 1861, Abraham Gillispie; 1864, Samuel Wingate; 1867, Peter Miller; 1868, Clark V. Worden; 1869, Jacob Vedder; 1872, James McMillan; 1875, Hiram J. Ingersoll; 1878, Charles H. Van Vranken; 1881, Jacob De Forest; 1884, Seth L. Clute.

COUNTY CLERKS.

1769, Henry Glen (Town Clerk); 1809, Peter F. Veeder; 1810, Joseph Shurtliff; 1811, Peter F. Veeder; 1812, Jellis A. Fonda; 1813, Joseph Shurtliff; 1815, Jellis A. Fonda; 1822, Jellis A. Fonda; 1834, John S. Vrooman; 1834, Jonathan Burnham; 1837, Archibald Campbell; 1843, Silas H. Marsh; 1849, David P. Forrest; 1852, Marvin Strong; 1858, John W. Veeder; 1861, John N. Banker; 1864, John McShea, Jr.; 1864, James G. Caw; 1876, J. Fonda Veile; 1882, Thomas Yelverton.

THOMAS YELVERTON, the present County Clerk, was born in Chester, Orange County, N. Y., in 1842, and graduated from Union College in 1866. He came to Schenectady in 1872.

COUNTY TREASURERS.

(Previous to 1848, County Treasurers were chosen by the Board of Supervisors, and for list of these officers previous to this date see article on Supervisors.) 1848, Stephen Y. Vedder; 1851, Charles H. Matthews; 1854, John H. Vanderveer; 1857, William M. Colborne; 1860, Nicholas Barhydt; 1863, Nichols V. Swits; 1866, N. J. Schermerhorn; 1881, Ira Brownell.

COUNTY SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

(Previous to 1857, School Commissioners were appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The first election was held in November, 1859.) Daniel J.

Darrow, David H. Hamlin, Samuel H. Weart, Nicholas T. Van Natta, Solyman G. Hamlin, Simon J. Schermerhorn, David Elder, H. Maynard Akin, C. W. Van Santvoord.

HISTORY OF THE CITY OF SCHENECTADY.

Edited and Compiled by Rev. J. H. MUNSELL.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY—1798–1885.

THE municipal history of Schenectady properly begins with the passage of its charter, March 26, 1798, being the third incorporated city in the State.

For ten years preceding the date of incorporation, Schenectady was controlled by a Board of Trustees, who in 1798 signed a petition to the Legislature declaring they deemed the incorporation of Schenectady as a city, beneficial and necessary to its growth and welfare. The names of the trustees appended to this petition were: Abraham Wemple, Nicholas Veeder, Abraham Switz, Abraham Oothout, John Glen, John Sanders, Jellis I. Fonda, Andrew Van Patten, Adam S. Vrooman, Garret S. Veeder, Jr., and Richard Schermerhorn. Among other citizens at this period who were influential in securing the passage of this act, were Joseph Shurtliff, member of Assembly from Schenectady at this date, and for a number of years after, Simon Veeder, Joseph C. Yates, Maus Schermerhorn, John Yates, William North and Harmanus Peek.

The area embraced within the corporate limits of Schenectady by the charter of 1798 was extensive, being twelve miles in length and eight in breadth. It was divided into four wards. The First ward included all the compact part of the city lying between Union street and the Mohawk River; the Second ward, that part lying south of Union street and extending a short distance upon the Bouwlandt; the Third ward, what is now the town of Rotterdam; and the Fourth ward, what is now the town of Glenville.

The corporate title was known by the name of "The Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Schenectady." The legislative power of the city was vested in a Mayor and a Board of Aldermen, who together formed the Common Council, a majority of the whole constituting a quorum for the transaction of business.

By this charter, the surviving trustees became divested voluntarily of all rights and claims over the common lands, the same being vested in the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city. Three commissioners were appointed to settle all accounts against and in favor of the trustees, and it was provided by the act that no sale or transfer of the common lands should be made, "unless two-thirds of the whole number of Aldermen and Assistants of said city shall give their assent to such sale."

The charter provided for the election by the people of two Aldermen and two Assistants, who should serve for a period of one year, such elections being held on the first Tuesday in April. The term of office began on the first Tuesday in May. From 1798 to 1822, the Mayors in all the cities of this State were appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council of Appointment. From 1822 to 1840 they were appointed by the Common Council. By act of the Legislature, passed February 13, 1840, they have since been elected by the people.

The first Mayor of Schenectady was Joseph C. Yates, who received his appointment from Governor John Jay. Mr. Yates was one of the foremost lawyers of his day, and the early history of this city owes much to his far-seeing acumen, judicious counsel and high administrative ability. He became State Senator in 1806, and in 1808 became one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of this State. He became Governor of the State in 1822.

The Mayor presided over the deliberations of the Board of Aldermen, and possessed all the privileges, as far as voting was concerned, of an alderman. He was also given power similar to a Judge of Common Pleas in all transactions relating to lands within the city.

To him was delegated the exclusive power of granting and giving licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors under the public seal of the city.

The officers appointed by the Common Council under the first charter consisted of a city treasurer, clerk, and as many assessors, collectors, constables, commissioners of highways, overseers of the poor, pound-masters and fence-viewers as the Common Council might deem necessary.

The charter of 1798 has been subjected to many amendments, to meet the demands of the times. The existing charter not only meets the requirements of a liberal, progressive policy, but under its operation the city is governed in a highly creditable and satisfactory manner.

MAYOR.—The office of Mayor, as has been stated, was filled by appointment of the Governor and Council until 1822. From that date to 1840 the Mayor was appointed by the Common Council, since which time it has been an elective office. The term of office from 1798 to 1861 was one year, since which date it has been two years.

RECORDER.—Although the office of Recorder is mentioned in the charter of the borough of Schenectady, it does not seem to have been created under the city charter until 1833, in which year Harmanus Peek was made Recorder and held this position for a number of years after. This officer possessed all the powers then conferred by law upon the Recorders of cities, and during the absence, sickness or disability of the Mayor, could exercise all the powers conferred upon the Mayor. From 1833 to 1862 the term of office was one year; since the latter date it has been extended to four years. The duties of this officer, as defined by the charter, consist in attending meetings of the Common Council, and in the absence or inability to act of the Mayor, he shall discharge the duties of that office. He is invested with power to arrest or cause the arrest of all persons violating the laws of the State, or the ordinances or police regulations of the city.

ALDERMEN.—The charter of 1798 provided for the election of four Aldermen in each ward for a period of one year. In 1851 the four Aldermen in each ward were divided into two classes, two who should serve for one year and two who should serve for two years. The act under which this was effected, provided that thereafter the terms of only two aldermen in each ward should expire during each year, and that all Aldermen elected one year after the passage of the act should serve for two years. In 1873 the number of Aldermen in each ward was reduced to three, who should be elected for three years, but they were divided into classes, so that the term of only one Alderman in each ward now expires every year.

TREASURER.—The Treasurer was appointed by the Common Council from 1798 to 1848, at which latter date a Treasurer was elected by the people. To the year 1862 the term of office was one year, but by the charter of this year it was extended to two years.

CLERK.—The Clerk has annually been appointed by the Common Council since the incorporation of the city.

BOARD OF MAGISTRATES.—A law was passed in 1815, empowering the Common Council to appoint

as many Aldermen or Justices of the Peace as was deemed necessary to constitute a Board of Magistrates. This Board was required to attend to the relief and support of the poor, and to punish persons committing petty offences within the city.

The exclusive power of applying and distributing the poor fund was committed to this Board. After the creation of the office of Police Justice, this Board was composed of that officer and two Aldermen, the latter selected by the Common Council. For many years the sole duty of this Board has been confined to the relief of the poor.

SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS.—By an amendment to the charter in 1813, provision was made for the appointment of one or more Superintendents of Streets, who should have charge of laying out and grading of streets. From 1813 to the present, but one Superintendent of Streets has been annually appointed by the Common Council, by which body his powers and duties are prescribed.

CITY ATTORNEY.—This office was created in 1833, since which date such officer has been annually appointed by the Common Council. He receives a stated salary, attends all meetings and acts as the legal adviser and assistant of the Board in all matter pertaining to questions of law.

CITY PHYSICIAN.—This officer was created about the same time as City Attorney. The person holding this office is chosen annually by the Common Council and receives a regular salary. He is, *ex officio*, health officer of the Board of Health, and required to render surgical aid and assistance to all indigent persons within the city.

BOARD OF HEALTH.—The duty of attending to sanitary affairs devolved upon the Mayor and Aldermen during the early municipal history of Schenectady. In 1813 the charter provided that one or more persons should be appointed by the Common Council, who should attend to the altering, amending, cleansing of any street, vault, sink or common sewer, and to apportion the costs upon the owners of property benefited thereby. In 1833, the Common Council appointed as many members as was deemed necessary to form a Board of Health to assist the Mayor in carrying into effect the provisions of the existing laws relating to the prevention and introduction of infectious and pestilential disease. Members of the Board were allowed a reasonable compensation for their services, as determined by the Common Council. By the charter of 1862, the Board of Health consisted of the Mayor, City Physician and one Alderman from each ward. The City Physician was the health officer of the Board. This Board, as then constituted, remains the same, although under recent laws their powers and duties have been greatly enlarged.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, CONSTABLES AND POLICE.—(See separate Article on Police.)

BOARD OF EXCISE.—As has been stated, the Mayor had exclusive power to grant licenses for sale of intoxicating liquors under the first charter. In 1813 the charter was so amended that a Commissioner of Excise was appointed by the Common Council for the Third and Fourth wards, who,

under the approbation of the Mayor, was empowered to grant licenses. In 1833, licenses were granted by the Mayor and Common Council, under the provisions of the State law at this time. In 1857 a law was passed giving the County Judge and Justices of Sessions of the several counties power to appoint three Commissioners of Excise to grant licenses in the county. In 1870 the Mayors of most of the cities of the State were given power to appoint three Commissioners of Excise for a period of three years. The present Commissioners are James Brownell, Charles Fellhousen and James Speir.

DIVISIONS OF THE CITY.—From 1798 to 1820 the city of Schenectady, as has been previously stated, was divided into four wards, but at the latter date, owing to the vast extent of territory comprised by the Third and Fourth wards, and the diversity of interests between the inhabitants of those wards and the citizens residing in the compact part of the city, the members of the Common Council applied to the Legislature to have a law enacted erecting the territory embraced in the Third and Fourth wards into separate towns. This petition of the municipal officers of Schenectady was granted, and a law was passed in 1820 separating these two wards from the city and forming the present towns of Rotterdam and Glenville. From 1820 to 1837, Schenectady was divided into but two wards, but at the latter date a special act was passed by the Legislature dividing the city into four wards. The present division of the city into five wards was made in 1860.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.—The first Common Council met in a building called the City Hall, on the corner of Union and Ferry streets, on the site of the present residence of H. S. Barney. The meetings of the Board continued to be held there until the purchase of the present Union School building in 1816, in which a Common Council Chamber was provided and used until the erection of the present Court House in 1833. At the latter place the Board continued to meet until the completion of the City Hall in 1881, on Jay street, for the erection of which Gen. W. K. Fuller, one of Schenectady's most public-spirited citizens, donated to the city the sum of \$10,000.

CITY OFFICERS FROM 1798-1885.

- 1798-1808.—Mayor, Joseph C. Yates.
 1807.—Treasurer, Cornelius Z. Van Santvoord; Clerk, David Boyd.
 1808.—Mayor, John Yates; Treasurer, Cornelius Z. Van Santvoord; Clerk, Harmanus Peek.
 1809.—Mayor, John Yates; Treasurer, Cornelius Z. Van Santvoord; Clerk, Harmanus Peek.
 1810.—Mayor, Abraham Oathout; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Harmanus Peek.
 1811.—Mayor, John Yates; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Harmanus Peek.
 1812.—Mayor, John Yates; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Harmanus Peek.
 1813.—Mayor, Maus Schermerhorn; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Harmanus Peek.

1814.—Mayor, Maus Schermerhorn; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Harmanus Peek.

1815.—Mayor, Maus Schermerhorn; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Harmanus Peek.

1816.—Mayor, Maus Schermerhorn; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Harmanus Peek.

1817.—Mayor, Henry Yates; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Harmanus Peek.

1818.—Mayor, Henry Yates; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Harmanus Peek.

1819.—Mayor, Henry Yates; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Nicholas F. Beck.

1820.—Mayor, Henry Yates; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Nicholas F. Beck.

1821-1824.—Mayor, Henry Yates; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Nicholas F. Beck.

1825.—Mayor, Isaac M. Schermerhorn.

1826-1827.—Mayor, David Boyd; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Abraham Van Ingen.

1828-1829.—Mayor, Isaac M. Schermerhorn; Treasurer, Maus Van Vranken; Clerk, Abraham Van Ingen.

1830.—Mayor, Isaac M. Schermerhorn; Treasurer, Jacob Swits; Clerk, Abraham Van Ingen.

1831.—Mayor, Archibald L. Linn; Treasurer and Clerk same as 1830.

1832.—Mayor, John I. De Graff; Treasurer and Clerk same as 1830.

1833.—Mayor, John I. De Graff; Recorder, Harmanus Peek; Treasurer, Jacob Swits; City Attorney, Abraham Van Ingen; Clerk, Abraham Van Ingen.

1834.—Officers same as preceding year.

1835.—Mayor, Archibald L. Linn; remaining officers unchanged.

1836.—Mayor, John I. De Graff; Treasurer, Thomas Harmon; Clerk, Abraham Van Ingen; Attorney, James M. Bouck.

1837.—Mayor, Samuel W. Jones; Clerk, Stephen S. Riggs; remaining officers same as preceding year.

1838.—Treasurer, Nicholas Swits; Attorney, Theodorick R. Van Ingen; remaining officers same as in 1837.

1839.—Mayor, Archibald L. Linn; remaining officers same as preceding year.

1840.—Mayor, Alexander C. Gibson; Treasurer, Nicholas Swits; Clerk, Stephen S. Riggs.

1841.—Mayor, Alexander C. Gibson; Treasurer, John B. Clute; Clerk, James Gilbert; Attorney, T. R. Van Ingen.

1842.—Mayor, John I. De Graff; Treasurer, Volney Freeman; Clerk, James M. Bouck; Attorney, Samuel W. Jones.

1843.—Mayor, Alexander C. Gibson; Clerk, James M. Bouck; Attorney, S. H. Johnson.

1844.—Mayor, Alexander C. Gibson; Treasurer, John B. Clute; Clerk, Harmanus S. Van Ingen; Attorney, S. H. Johnson.

1845.—Mayor, John I. De Graff; Treasurer, Joseph Lyon; Clerk and Attorney same as preceding year.

- 1846-1847.—Mayor, Peter Rowe; Treasurer, A. J. Thomson; Clerk, Thomas Palmer; Attorney, Stephen H. Daggett.
- 1848-1849.—Mayor, James E. Van Horn; Treasurer, James Walker.
- 1850.—Mayor, Peter Rowe; Clerk, James M. Bouck; Attorney, Thomas Palmer.
- 1851.—Mayor, Mordecai Myers; remaining officers same as in 1850.
- 1852.—Mayor, Abraham A. Van Voast; remaining officers same as in 1850.
- 1853.—Mayor, Abraham A. Van Voast; Clerk, James M. Bouck; Attorney, John G. McChesney.
- 1854.—Mayor, Mordecai Myers; Recorder, Thomas Palmer; Treasurer, L. A. Young; City Attorney, J. G. McChesney; Clerk, D. A. Atwell.
- 1855.—Mayor, Abel Smith; Recorder, Henry Stevens, who died while in office, and was succeeded by David M. Moore; Treasurer, N. M. F. Clute; Clerk, D. A. Atwell.
- 1856.—Mayor, Abel Smith; Recorder, David M. Moore; Treasurer, N. M. F. Clute; City Attorney, John G. McChesney; Clerk, D. A. Atwell.
- 1857.—Mayor, Benjamin V. S. Vedder; Recorder, David M. Moore; Treasurer, N. M. F. Clute; Attorney, John G. McChesney; Clerk, D. A. Atwell.
- 1858.—Mayor, Alexander M. Vedder; Recorder, David M. Moore; Treasurer, N. M. F. Clute to January 1, 1859, and Henry M. Vedder for balance of term; Attorney, David C. Smith; Clerk, Stephen S. Riggs.
- 1859.—David P. Forrest; Recorder, David M. Moore to January 1, 1860, and Jay Cady for balance of term; Treasurer, Frederick Clute, Jr., to September, 1859, and John Bradt for balance of term; Clerk, Stephen H. S. Riggs to November, 1859, and Charles S. Vedder for balance of term.
- 1860.—Mayor, Benjamin E. Potter; Recorder, Jay Cady; Treasurer, John Bradt; Attorney, D. Cady Smith; Clerk, Charles S. Vedder to October 1, 1860, and Daniel J. Darrow for balance of term.
- 1861.—Mayor, Arthur W. Hunter; Recorder, Jay Cady; Treasurer, John Bradt; Attorney, D. Cady Smith; Clerk, S. L. R. Buchanan.
- 1862.—Same as preceding year.
- 1863.—Mayor, Arthur W. Hunter; Recorder, W. H. Helmer; Treasurer, John Bradt; Attorney, D. Cady Smith; Clerk, Henry B. Houston.
- 1864.—Same as preceding year.
- 1865.—Mayor, Andrew McMullen; Recorder, W. H. Helmer; Treasurer, John Bradt; Attorney, G. N. Timberman; Clerk, James M. Bouck.
- 1866.—Mayor, Andrew McMullen; Recorder, W. H. Helmer; Treasurer, John Bradt; Attorney, D. M. Chadsey; Clerk, Frank Seymour.
- 1867.—Mayor, Andrew McMullen; Recorder, S. L. R. Buchanan; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, Edward Hibbard; Attorney, A. J. Thomson.
- 1868.—Mayor, Andrew McMullen; Recorder, S. L. R. Buchanan; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, Edward Hibbard; Attorney, D. Cady Smith.
- 1869.—Mayor, A. Van Voast; Recorder, Edgar M. Jenkins; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, J. Van Vranken; Attorney, D. Cady Smith.
- 1870.—Mayor, Abraham A. Van Voast; Recorder, Edgar M. Jenkins; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, J. Van Vranken; Attorney, D. Cady Smith.
- 1871.—Mayor, William J. Van Horne; Recorder, Edgar M. Jenkins; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, H. W. Dennington; Attorney, D. Cady Smith.
- 1872.—Mayor, William J. Van Horne; Recorder, Edgar M. Jenkins; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, Howard Barringer; Attorney, J. S. Landon.
- 1873.—Mayor, A. W. Hunter; Recorder, Edgar M. Jenkins; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, Howard Barringer; Attorney, J. S. Landon.
- 1874.—Mayor, A. W. Hunter; Recorder, Samuel T. Benedict to December 15, 1874, and W. H. Helmer for balance of term; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, H. W. Dennington; Attorney, E. W. Paige.
- 1875.—Mayor, Peter B. Yates; Recorder, William Howes Smith; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, H. W. Dennington; Attorney, E. W. Paige.
- 1876.—Mayor, Peter B. Yates, who died July 4, 1876, and was succeeded by William Howes Smith, July 11, 1876; Recorder, Wm. H. Smith to July 11, 1876, and Benj. L. Conde for balance of term; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, H. W. Dennington; Attorney, A. J. Thomson.
- 1877.—Mayor, Wm. Howes Smith; Recorder, Marcus N. Millard; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, H. W. Dennington; Attorney, A. J. Thomson.
- 1878.—Mayor, Wm. Howes Smith; Recorder, Marcus N. Millard; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, H. W. Dennington; Attorney, A. J. Thomson.
- 1879.—Mayor, Joseph B. Graham; Recorder, Marcus N. Millard; Treasurer, John Bradt; Clerk, H. W. Dennington; Attorney, S. W. Jackson.
- 1880.—Mayor, Joseph B. Graham; Recorder, Marcus N. Millard; Treasurer, John Bradt, who died January 31, 1881, and was succeeded by appointment for balance of the year by H. W. Dennington; Clerk, H. W. Dennington to February 8, 1881, and E. E. Kreigsmann for balance of term; Attorney, S. W. Jackson.
- 1881.—Mayor, A. A. Van Voast; Recorder, Henry S. De Forest; Treasurer, H. W. Dennington; Clerk, E. E. Kreigsmann; Attorney, S. W. Jackson.
- 1882.—Mayor, A. A. Van Voast; Recorder, Henry S. De Forest; Treasurer, H. W. Dennington; Clerk, E. E. Kreigsmann; Attorney, S. W. Jackson.
- 1883.—Mayor, John Young; Recorder, H. S. De Forest; Treasurer, H. W. Dennington; Clerk, James Hanley, Jr.; Attorney, A. J. Thomson.
- 1884.—Mayor, John Young; Recorder, H. S. De Forest; Treasurer, H. W. Dennington; Clerk, James Hanley, Jr.; Attorney, A. J. Thomson.
- 1885.—Mayor, Henry S. De Forest; Recorder, James H. Flinn; Treasurer, H. W. Dennington; Clerk, Horatio G. Glen; Attorney, A. J. Thomson.

JOHN BRADT.

JOHN BRADT was born in Schenectady, January 24, 1822. His father, Peter Bradt, died as the result of an accident in the younger years of his son, and the latter was thrown upon his own exertions in early life. His education was purely a business one, but he was of such a practical turn of mind that he utilized it with wonderful success, early displaying much sagacity in the settlement of his father's estate. When quite a young man he became confidential clerk and agent of Hon. Henry Yates, of the firm of Yates & McEntyre, New York, and in this position he developed those qualities which marked him as a correct business man and successful financier, laying the foundation of his future monetary success.

On the decease of Mr. Yates, Mr. Bradt, then only about twenty-three years old, became executor and trustee of his vast estate. In this capacity he had entire charge of all affairs of the estate, which necessarily involved transactions in several States of the Union. Several years were consumed in reaching a final settlement, during which Mr. Bradt attended to the interests intrusted to him with a fidelity that won the admiration of all interested persons.

He now returned to Schenectady, which was his permanent home. Without solicitation on his part, or opposition from any quarter, he was appointed Treasurer of the Canal Board, a position which he held several years. August 2, 1859, he was appointed Treasurer of the City of Schenectady, to succeed Frederick Clute, Jr. April 2, 1860, he was elected to the same position and re-elected each successive term until his death. In an official point of view his name was long a household word in Schenectady. He held this responsible trust longer than any other incumbent of the treasurer's office. The office was conferred term after term on that sound principle, so rarely acted upon, that the office should seek the man, not the man the office, and was a testimonial of the public confidence in his strict integrity and remarkable financial ability. One who knew him well wrote: "Could it have been possible or right to have extended his sphere of usefulness, we verily believe he would have made an excellent Secretary of the Treasury, or of the Department of the Interior, in the general government." An indefatigable worker, he was always found in his office attending to his duties, for he believed that, once elevated to a public trust, it was incumbent on him to discharge all duties faithfully and impartially. A Democrat, and markedly consistent as such, he was no politician, and never indulged in heated discussions upon public affairs.

In his private business relations Mr. Bradt was successful, and he was at the same time so upright in all his dealings as to win the confidence of all with whom he came in contact. His operations were conducted methodically, and with foresight and sagacity. He made such judicious investments in real property that he came to be regarded as one of the chief real estate owners of the city. He was

looked upon as the best posted authority in regard to local real estate values. His skill as an accountant was well known, and his services were often sought by eminent lawyers and jurists throughout the State in the settlement of tedious and difficult litigation suits. From time to time he was entrusted with the settlement of several estates. As a landlord he was always kind and forbearing to the poor, and under a quiet, unexpressive exterior, those who knew him best discerned a generous, unassuming nature.

In 1854, Mr. Bradt married Miss Margaret A. Hover, of Schenectady. He died suddenly January 31, 1881, leaving a widow and four children. His only daughter is the wife of Henry McMullen. The other children are sons. His name will long have a place in the memory of the leading business and professional men of this section, and its place in the history of Schenectady is one of proud eminence.

POLICE.

In the early history of Schenectady, before it was incorporated as a city, it devolved upon the Justices of the Peace, appointed by the Governor, to see that peace and order were maintained, and they had power to appoint certain persons whose duty it was to arrest and report to the Justices all offenders against the laws.

In 1788 a law was passed by the Legislature giving the Justices of the Peace authority to appoint six night watchmen and an officer from the citizens residing in the township of Schenectady southward from the Mohawk River and not more than three-quarters of a mile from the Dutch Church. These persons so selected were required to keep watch and guard in their turn in such manner and time as the Justices directed. Only one watchman was on duty at a time. The Justices prescribed the rules and regulations to govern the watchmen, and a fine was imposed on any officer neglecting his duty. This was the first regular police service instituted at Schenectady.

This manner of appointing night watchmen was repealed when the charter of Schenectady was adopted.

In the act incorporating the city of Schenectady, passed March 26, 1798, the Common Council was given power to designate the number of constables to be elected in each ward. From and up to the present date one constable was elected in each ward, and to them was given the same powers in criminal actions now possessed by the policemen. There was no regular salary attached to this office. The only pay received for services consisted of regularly prescribed fees.

June 17, 1817, the number of night watchmen was increased to eight. They were appointed by the Common Council and were placed under the direction of two Superintendents, also appointed by the Common Council. The Superintendents had entire supervision of the watchmen, prescribing the rules and regulations governing them and the time each should serve. Only two watchmen were on duty at a time. When on patrol, the watchmen



John Bradt.

carried a staff five feet long, and were obliged to be on duty from nine o'clock in the evening until day-break. At every hour of the night they announced, in an audible voice, the time. These officers were required to maintain the peace and see that the laws were enforced and obeyed. A watch-house was provided for the imprisonment of all offenders against the law.

March 10, 1815, a law was passed by the Legislature, creating a Board of Magistrates, consisting of two persons selected by the Common Council from the Aldermen or Justices of the Peace, who were empowered to attend to the relief of the poor and to punish petty offences committed within the city limits. They were required to receive the report of the night watchman every morning and to proceed to the examination of all persons apprehended by the watchman. The Common Council selected one or more constables, called police constables, who were required to serve all warrants, summonses and processes by the Board of Magistrates. These constables were expected to arrest and report all offenders against the laws and ordinances of the city, and bring such persons for trial before the Board, which had jurisdiction similar to the present police justices. The magistrates were allowed an annual salary of one hundred and fifty dollars, and the constables fifty dollars.

About 1830 a High Constable was chosen by the Common Council, pursuant to an act of the Legislature. He represented the entire city, and had jurisdiction over criminal matters such as is now exercised by the Chief of Police. His term of office was limited to one year. The High Constable and the Ward Constables continued to exercise their police powers in maintaining peace and order until the Capital Police Force was organized in 1867.

March 28, 1842, the office of Police Justice was created by an act of the Legislature, which provided that the Board of Supervisors should appoint one of the Justices of the Peace of the city to attend to complaints, examinations and trials of a criminal nature. April 1st of the following year another act of the Legislature was passed, providing that the Police Justice should be appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, and that his term of office should be for three years. March 31, 1848, another act was passed, providing that the office of Police Justice, High Constable and four Justices of the Peace should be elective offices. The term of Police Justice was extended to four years and that of High Constable and Justices of the Peace to three years.

April 22, 1865, a law was passed by the Legislature creating the City of Albany and the several adjoining towns a district known as the Capital Police District of the State of New York. This act provided that three Commissioners and two Advisory Commissioners of Capital Police should be appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate. To these Commissioners, called a Police Board, was intrusted the appointment of Superintendents, Captains, Sergeants and Patrolmen, and had the entire supervision of all matters relat-

ing to the police government of the district. April 10, 1866, by an act of the Legislature, the Capital Police District was extended so as to embrace the City of Schenectady, which city was limited to the service of seven patrolmen, at an annual salary of five hundred dollars each, to be paid out of the contributions of the city to the Capital Police Fund. A. W. Hunter, of this city, was appointed Police Commissioner for this city.

It seems that the passage of this act was not done in response to the wishes of the people of this city, for the following year the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution condemning the passage of the act, and asking for its appeal. But nothing was done in this direction beyond remonstrating against it, and this system of police protection remained in force till the passage of the Act to Organize and Establish a Police for the City of Schenectady, April 15, 1870.

The passage of this act provided for the election of two Police Commissioners by the people, who, in conjunction with the Mayor, should constitute a Police Board, having the general charge of all matters pertaining to the Police force. These Commissioners are elected for two years, and perform their duties without compensation. The act creating them provides that they shall select not more than ten policemen, whose term of service shall continue during good behavior and capacity to perform the duties required. The pay of policemen is fixed by the Commissioners, and cannot be less than five hundred dollars nor more than eight hundred dollars per annum. A Chief of Police and an Assistant Chief are selected from the ten members composing the force by the Board. The Chief of Police, under the direction of the Board, is the chief executive officer of the Police Department, and is obliged to keep a book of records of proceedings in his department, and all the services rendered by himself and the several policemen. During the absence of the Police Justice, the Chief possesses the power of that officer to entertain complaints for criminal offences, and to issue warrants for the arrest of persons charged with criminal actions. The salary of the Chief of Police is fixed by the Police Board, when approved by the Common Council, and cannot be less than five hundred nor more than twelve hundred dollars per year.

The present Police Commissioners are: Peter M. Doty and George Buskerk; Chief of Police, William S. Campbell; Assistant Chief, Frank V. De Forrest.

Salary of the Chief is \$850; Assistant Chief, \$800; patrolmen, \$730.

When the first police force was organized under the Capital Police system, the city furnished a station-house in Wall street, in the present store occupied by Thomas Ody. Here were provided suitable cells for the confinement of prisoners until final disposition was made of them before the Police Justice. A Police Court was arranged on the second floor over the Police Station.

This building was used for this purpose until the completion of the present City Hall, in 1881. Here commodious apartments are provided for

Police Court, Police Justice's offices, office of Chief of Police, sleeping apartment for Patrolmen, and cells for the confinement of prisoners.

FREDERICK EISENMENGER, Police Justice, was appointed by the Common Council May 2, 1882, and elected to the same office for four years in April, 1883. He is also chairman of the Board of Magistrates to distribute relief to the poor.

WILLIAM L. CAMPBELL, Chief of Police, has been a police officer here since August 3, 1869. He has served the city faithfully, and from the accounts kept in his office, records back to 1798 can be traced.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Before Schenectady was incorporated as a city, the means for the extinguishment of fires were limited to the use of leather buckets. Each dwelling was supplied with as many as the authorities prescribed. Every able-bodied citizen, in case of fire, was obliged to render all the assistance within his power, and any refusal to do so was an offence against the safety of the inhabitants, deemed worthy of a fine and, in certain cases, imprisonment. The first law passed by the Legislature relating to protection from fires in Schenectady was on March 1, 1788. This act provided that the Justices of the Peace should select from the inhabitants living south of the Mohawk River, and not more than three-quarters of a mile from the Dutch Church, twenty able-bodied citizens to act as firemen, such persons to have the care and management of all fire apparatus and to render assistance at fires. The Justices made and established the rules and regulations governing the firemen, and had power to remove any fireman for disobeying them. The persons appointed under this act probably constituted the first regular fire company ever organized in this city.

The first date we find any reference made to fire engines was in 1797. September 11th of this year the trustees of Schenectady, at a regular meeting, directed by resolution that a letter be sent to Alexander Ellice, London, England, directing him to purchase two fire engines, one large one at a cost of 120 guineas, and a small house engine at a cost of 20 guineas. These engines were soon after obtained and used for many years. They were operated by hand—small and crude affairs even compared with the hand engines used at a later date. The larger of these two engines was about eight or ten feet in length, between three and four feet wide, and stood three feet high. The condensing case, inclosing the works, was placed in the center of the machine, considerably higher than the main portion of the case. On the top was an elbow or "goose-neck," to which, when the engine was at work, was attached a pipe, through which the stream of water was directed upon the flames. As this engine had no suction, it was supplied by means of buckets, the water being drawn from neighboring wells, carried to and emptied into the engine through an aperture in the side of the box, so as not to interfere with the working of the engine. This box held many gallons of water. The

arms or pumping handles were placed fore and aft, working lengthwise of the box, the bows striking on the ends; and, when full manned, four men could work on each arm, making eight in all. Such were the engines in use at this time, which were considered instruments of utility and beauty.

When Schenectady was incorporated as a city there were two fire companies, the members of which were appointed by the Mayor and Common Council. At this period, and for a number of years after, it was a duty incumbent upon the Mayor and Aldermen to attend all fires and give personal supervision to the work of the firemen. Indeed, at this time the city magistrates performed the same services in later years delegated to the chief engineer and his assistants.

May 12, 1798, an ordinance was passed by the Common Council which provided that two persons should be appointed for each ward, called Inspectors, who were required at certain times in each month to inspect the dwellings in their respective wards and ascertain if proper precaution was taken to guard against fire, and to make a report to the Aldermen of the condition of the buildings in the ward as to their safety from fire. This ordinance contained many regulations respecting the necessary things to be done by property owners for the prevention of fires, and any citizen whose dwelling did not comply with these regulations, who was reported by the inspectors, had a limited time to remedy such defect. If he failed to do so he was fined.

In 1798 a company was organized called the Fire Bag Company. To this company was principally intrusted the work of removing personal property from buildings exposed to danger by fire to places of safety. Such property, when removed, they were expected to guard and protect from loss by thieves until it should be taken care of by the owners. This company consisted of twenty-one members, and continued in existence for many years. The first members were: David Tomlinson, Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, Jr., Gilbert R. Livingston, James Murdock, Jonathan Walton, George Leslie, William N. Lighthall, Dorcey Jones, James I. Hoyt, William J. Teller, Lawrence Van Baskerk, Dow Clute, James Anderson, Robert Wendell, Samuel Thorn, Luther Halsey, James Adair, Andrew M. Farlan, Jr., Abraham Van Ingen, Henry Yates, Jr., William Corlett.

In 1798 the fire limits were defined as extending one mile due north from the northwest corner of Union College building, thence due west one mile, thence south two miles, thence east two miles, thence north two miles, thence west to the place of beginning, two miles.

The charter of the city of Schenectady, as amended April 2, 1813, provided that not more than eighty able-bodied freeholders should be selected by the Common Council from the two wards of the city to act as firemen, who should have the care and management of the engines and tools provided for the extinguishment of fires, which persons were to be called the Firemen of the City of Schenectady.

The fire district at this time extended from the south side of the Mohawk River, and not more than three-quarters of a mile from the site of the present First Reformed Dutch Church.

The first Hook and Ladder Company was formed in 1814, and consisted of ten members. This company was provided with the necessary apparatus by the city and was under the supervision of a captain and an assistant appointed by the Common Council.

AX-MEN.—In 1814 a company was organized called the *Ax-men*. It consisted of two members under the same supervision as the Hook and Ladder Company. Each man was provided with an ax, and expected to cut down fences and buildings where necessary, to check the spread of fire.

The first Superintendent of Firemen was appointed in 1814. To this officer was not only intrusted the general supervision of the firemen at fires, but he was required to see that the engines and all other fire apparatus were kept in proper working order. His duties were somewhat similar to those imposed upon the present Chief Engineer.

In 1815 there were four fire companies in the city, exclusive of the Hook and Ladder and Axmen. They were designated as Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4. Company No. 1 had quarters near the present stores of Walker and Mains; No. 2, near corner of Front and Ferry streets; No. 3, a few doors below the residence of Edward Walker, on Liberty street; No. 4, near the location of the present J. D. Campbell Hose House. Each one of these companies had fire engines at this date. The engine purchased in England in 1797 was still in use, and the other engines, though larger, were similar in construction.

The laws of the city were very strict in regard to the duty of citizens at time of a fire in these days. Every able-bodied citizen was pressed into service, and it was no uncommon sight to see a line of men nearly a quarter of a mile long, standing in a close line, reaching from the nearest point where water could be obtained to the engine, passing buckets of water from one to the other, to supply the engine with water. Even women at times were engaged in this work. A fine was imposed on any citizen who refused to perform such work when requested to do so by the city magistrates.

From pictures of the larger engines used at this date, we see simply a long tank or box placed upon wheels. On each side of the tank was a long arm or handle extending the entire length of the tank, which worked on the principle of a pump-handle. At a time of fire this engine was drawn as near as possible to the scene of destruction, the tank was then filled with water, and then, by means of the pump, the water was forced from the tank through a hose. About thirty men could work at the pump of the largest engines. Although there was much labor, requiring a large force of men, attending the use of these early engines, they did good service, and prevented any extensive conflagration until the year 1819, when, notwithstanding the most strenuous exertions of our firemen, spoken of at

that time in the most praiseworthy manner, the entire lower portion of our city was destroyed.

THE TEAPOT.—There are those living who can remember the small engine used at this date (1815), and for many years after, by the members of Company No. 3. It was a small engine, called the "Teapot," on account of its appearance. It was simply a tank, with a pump attached, capable of being carried when full of water by four men. It was of great service at a fire, often being carried into a burning building and doing excellent work where the larger engines could not be used. This engine was used for many years.

DOUBLE DECK ENGINE.—In 1825 the Common Council purchased the first double deck engine ever used in this city. It was given in charge of Company No. 4, and was something of a wonder at this time. It was purchased from a firm in Philadelphia. It was larger than the other engines in use in the city, but worked on the same principle. The two decks made it possible for more men to work at the pumps, and thus more force was given the water. Some of the firemen of this period who are now living, claim that this engine could throw a stream of water even higher than the modern steam engines.

FIRE WARDENS.—In 1825 five Fire Wardens were appointed, who had supervision over the buildings erected in the fire district, as to the regulations to be observed under the laws of the city relating to safety from fires. The first Fire Wardens were: Isaac S. Miller, Benjamin M. Munford, John Van Voast, Nicholas Van Vranken and George McQueen.

INCORPORATION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY.—April 21, 1828, a law was passed by the Legislature constituting all persons belonging to the several fire companies a body politic, under the name of "The Fire Department of the City of Schenectady." This act provided that each company of firemen should choose two representatives, who should select a president and vice-president, and, out of the whole body of firemen, three trustees, a treasurer, secretary and a collector. The first representatives were George McQueen, John Van Voast, Richard F. Ward, Myndert Van Gysling, Cornelius L. Barhydt, Henry Peek, Robert Osborne and Peter Bradt. The first president was George McQueen; the first vice-president, John Van Voast; the first trustees, Joseph Mynderse, Jacob De Forest, Jr., and Harmanus W. Peek; the first treasurer, Henry Peek; the first secretary, Joseph Mynderse; and the first collector, Richard F. Ward.

The trustees managed the affairs and disposed of the funds of the corporation according to the by-laws, rules and regulations of the corporation. By this act, the time of incorporation was extended to April 1, 1848, and the firemen were granted all the rights and privileges then extended by law to the firemen of the city of New York.

FIRST HOSE COMPANY.—In 1830 the first Hose Company was formed for the purpose of attending to the hose of the fire companies, but in 1834 it was disbanded and converted into a supply com-

pany of twelve members. The members of this company were expected to supply the engines with water, but, a few years later, the purchase of suction engines did away with this work, and the company was disbanded.

THE FIRST SUCTION ENGINE.—About the year 1836, three suction engines were purchased by the city for the use of the Fire Department. Two were called the Seeley engines, the other was known as the Button engine. Both were constructed at Rochester.

These engines were a great improvement over those heretofore used by the firemen. They were hand engines, but did away with the laborious and difficult task of supplying the engines with water by the use of buckets.

The first three engines bought were given to Companies Nos. 1, 2 and 4. A few years later a similar engine was purchased for Company No. 3. These engines were successfully used till the steam engines came into general use many years after.

THE FIRST CHIEF ENGINEER.—September 16, 1836, the Common Council passed a law creating the office of Chief Engineer of the Fire Department. In December of the same year the offices of First and Second Assistant Engineer were created.

The first Chief Engineer was Richard F. Ward. The first Assistant Engineers were John C. Burnham and James E. Van Horn.

These officers were subject to the direction of the Fire Wardens, but the firemen received their orders through the Chief and his assistants. September 2, 1846, the Chief and his assistants were given exclusive authority to direct the action of all firemen.

ACT OF INCORPORATION OF 1862.—April 2, 1862, an act was passed by the Legislature incorporating all persons belonging to the several fire companies in a body politic, by the title of "The Fire Department of the City of Schenectady," for the term of thirty years. With a few changes, this act is similar to the act of incorporation of 1828.

FIRST STEAM FIRE ENGINE.—The first steam fire engine was purchased at Portland, Maine, by the city, February 14, 1864, for \$5,000, but was not received and accepted until the following year. It was named the A. W. Hunter engine, in honor of the presiding mayor at that time. It was placed in engine house No. 4 upon its arrival, and is still used for the extinguishment of fires. The first engineer was John Schermerhorn; assistant engineer, Jeremiah Tenbrook; fireman, Vedder Peters. The salary of the fireman was fixed at \$500 per year, and that of engineer and assistant engineer at \$100. In 1867 another steam engine was purchased for No. 3 engine house, called the Andrew McMullen steamer, and in 1869 a steamer for No. 1 engine house, called the A. A. Van Voast. Thomas Carroll was appointed engineer of steamer No. 3, and John J. Hart for steamer No. 1.

These three steamers were used till the year 1872, when the completion of the Schenectady Water-works, and the arrangements made with this company for supplying the city with water

for the extinguishment of fires, made their use unnecessary. Steamers Andrew McMullen and A. A. Van Voast were withdrawn from service immediately and subsequently sold. Steamer No. 1 (A. W. Hunter) was retained and is still used.

In 1872, in consequence of the new system adopted of fire protection, the entire Fire Department was reorganized by the Common Council. Companies Nos. 1, 3 and 4 were disbanded, but soon after reorganized. Company No. 1, which retained the steamer A. W. Hunter, was the first to be enrolled. Companies Nos. 3 and 4 were soon after reorganized as Hose Companies. A hose depot was established this year in the building used by Company No. 1, and has been used ever since for such purpose.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HOSE.—In 1872 the office of Superintendent of Hose was established. James W. Clute was the first superintendent appointed, and has held the position continuously up to the present time. This officer is obliged to inspect, clean and keep all the hose used by the department in serviceable condition, to keep the steamer in running order, and to accompany and regulate it when its use is required.

The history of the Volunteer Fire Department, from the incorporation of this city to the present time, has ever been a credit to the city and an honor to the men who composed it.

Schenectady has been remarkably free from any extensive conflagration in many years, and credit for this fact can be attributed solely to the self-sacrificing spirit, intelligent labor and praiseworthy exertions of its firemen. The present efficient force has been ever ready to respond to the call of duty, and by zealous, united efforts has saved much valuable property.

Among our oldest living firemen are: Albert Van Brunt, Stephen Truax, D. Cady Smith, Levi Case, Martin De Forest, John O. Horsfall, Edward Rosa, Benjamin F. Lyons, Richard Benson and John B. Clute.

HISTORY OF THE DIFFERENT FIRE COMPANIES.—The first year from which we can get a connected history of the different fire companies organized in this city is 1824.

Following will be found the history of each company since 1824, not previously mentioned, down to the present time:

COMPANY No. 1.—From 1824 to 1858, when it was disbanded, this company was known simply as Engine Company No. 1. It was reorganized, 1858, with 20 members, under the name of Protection Hose Company No. 1, and retained this name until it was disbanded, by order of the Common Council, September 24, 1872. It was reorganized, with 28 members, September 27 of this year, as Ellis Hose Company No. 1. It disbanded May 2, 1876, but reorganized two days from this date as Protection Hose Company No. 1. This company is still in existence, and has 15 members.

COMPANY No. 2.—From 1824 to May 16, 1855, this company was known as Engine Company No. 2. It was reorganized March 4, 1857, as the Del-

uge Company No. 2. It subsequently disbanded and did not organize until 1873, when it assumed the name of Van Vranken Hose Company. This company still exists, and has a membership of 30.

COMPANY No. 3.—This company, from 1824 to 1835, when it was disbanded, was called Engine Company No. 3. March 18, 1835, it was reorganized, but a few years after disbanded. March 3, 1857, it was reorganized as Niagara Company No. 3, which name it retained to October 9, 1867, when it was reorganized, with 27 members, as Rosa Hose Company No. 3. It was disbanded by the Common Council, September 24, 1872, and reorganized, with 33 members, January 10, 1876, as the Cain Hose Company No. 3. It disbanded September 16, 1879, and reorganized October 14, 1879, as Neptune Hose Company No. 3. This company is still in existence, and has a membership of 20.

COMPANY No. 4.—From 1824 to December 15, 1847, this company was known as Engine Company No. 4. It was disbanded in 1847, and reorganized January 1, 1848, and again disbanded May 2, 1856. It was reorganized August 16, 1856. October 6, 1857, the name was changed to Neptune Hose Company No. 4. June 16, 1867, it was reorganized, with 28 members, as the Hathaway Hose Company No. 4. September 24, 1872, it was disbanded by the Common Council, but immediately reorganized, with 19 members, as the Stanford Hose Company. May 3, 1876, it again disbanded, and reorganized, with 25 members, June 13, 1876, as the J. D. Campbell Hose Company. This company is still in the service, and has a membership of 29.

COMPANY No. 5.—This company was organized, with 36 members, November 18, 1835. It at one time was the Mohawk Hose Company. August 28, 1860, it was disbanded, and not reorganized till July 21, 1876, when it was called the E. W. Paige Hose Company. This company still exists, and has a membership of 17.

COMPANY No. 6.—This company was organized, with 48 members, November 20, 1838, and existed for many years, when it was disbanded. January 14, 1878, it was reorganized, with 30 members, as the J. S. Myers Hose Company. It disbanded in 1881, and reorganized March 13, 1884, with 19 members, as the Elmer Ellis Hose Company. This company has at present a membership of 23.

AX, HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY.—The first ax, hook and ladder company was organized in 1814, and continued to exist until disbanded, June 5, 1856, but was reorganized on the same date. It disbanded August 17, 1860.

July 8, 1862, Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 was organized, with 55 members, and continued in the service to December 24, 1867, when it was disbanded, since which date no company of this kind has existed in the city.

FIRE GUARDS.—A company called the Fire Guards was organized September 6, 1836, from the Supply Company, which disbanded at that time. The Fire Guards disbanded August 5, 1845, and have never been reorganized.

EAGLE HOSE COMPANY.—A company called the Eagle Hose Company was organized from the members of the Fire Guards, August 5, 1845. It was disbanded January 4, 1851, and has never been reorganized.

Following is a list of Chief Engineers of the Fire Department since 1862: James Babcock, Patrick Kelly (three terms), Thomas H. Kennedy, Edward Ellis (four terms), William E. Walker (two terms), Ezra McCue, Francis Cain (four terms), George B. Swortfiguer, Martin Eagan, William J. Anthony, Arden W. Weller, John A. Vedder (three terms).

Following is a list of Assistant Engineers since 1862: 1863, Jaffrey Thompson and John Frame; 1864, Ephraim Clow, Walter Clute; 1865, Ephraim Clow, Walter Clute; 1866, Walter Clute, James Smith; 1867, Joseph Parker, W. S. Van Voast; 1868, William Martin, John Collins; 1867, P. H. McDermott, William Stevens; 1870, Charles A. Clark, Francis Cain; 1871, William Fuller, Peter M. Doty; 1872, Edward Van Epps, Frederick Esenminger; 1873, Joseph Parker, John J. Wheaton; 1874, John A. Vedder, Francis Cain; 1875, Edward Cooley, Jacob De Long; 1876, John A. Vedder, George B. Swortfiguer; 1877, George B. Swortfiguer, Martin Eagan; 1878, Martin Eagan, William J. Anthony; 1879, William J. Anthony, Arden W. Weller; 1880, Arden W. Weller, Andrew Coleman; 1881, Andrew Coleman, Peter M. Dody; 1882, Elias T. Van Patten, William P. Daley; 1883, William P. Daley, James C. Dougherty; 1884, James C. Dougherty, Myndert Scrofford; 1885, James C. Dougherty, William P. Daley.

BENCH AND BAR.

The Bar of Schenectady County is as ancient as that of Albany County. Its lawyers practiced in the courts established under the Dutch regime as early as 1626, but for at least one hundred and twenty years Schenectady County formed a part of Albany County, and the lawyers of Schenectady were members of the Albany bar. On March, 1809, however, Schenectady County was organized from territory taken from the western portion of the latter county, but it embraced no portion of the manor of Rensselaerwyck.

Immediately after the formation of the County of Schenectady its bar was organized, and, in conformity to the constitution and laws of the State, its county courts were also organized: the Court of Common Pleas, Court of General Sessions of the Peace, and the Surrogate's Court; and times and places were also appointed for holding the Circuit Courts, Courts of Oyer and Terminer, and Special Equity and Supreme Court terms.

The judiciary of the county consisted of the Hon. Joseph C. Yates, appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court by Gov. Tompkins a few weeks previous to the act establishing the county. Joseph C. Yates, at the time of his appointment, was a distinguished lawyer residing at Schenectady, and one of the most prominent characters in the

history of the State. We shall refer to him more at large hereafter.

Hon. Gerrit S. Vedder was appointed First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the county; William J. Teller, Surrogate; Peter F. Vedder, Clerk; James V. S. Riley, Sheriff; James Barent, Under Sheriff; Richard Oothout, Crier of the Court.

The first court held in Schenectady County after its organization was a Court of General Sessions, which began May 9, 1809. We take the following from the records of the Court of that date:

At a Court of General Sessions of the Peace, held in and for the County of Schenectady at the City of Schenectady, and at the Hall of the said county, on Tuesday, the 9th day of May, 1809.

Present—Hon. GERRIT S. VEDDER, First Judge.

JOHN YATES,	} Judges.
JONATHAN HERRICK,	
JACOB A. VROOMAN,	
PETER C. VAN SLYCKE,	

Court opened.

The Sheriff returned the precept for summoning the Grand Jury for this Court with a panel of Grand Jurors annexed, and the following Grand Jurors appeared and were sworn:

Charles Kane, foreman; James Rom, Henry H. Peck, Eri Lusher, Daniel Shields, Jacob Swits, David Van Der Hyden, Robert Knowlton, Francis Vedder, John B. Clute, Cornelius A. Groot, Isaac De Graff, Maus Schemerhorn, Rudolph Van Housen, Peter McDougall, Gersham Van Vorst, Stephen Cogswell, Isaac Ledyard, Gabriel H. Bowne, William Strong, Robert Ganley, John Van De Bogart, Henry Mercelus.

Charge given to the Grand Jury; adjourned till afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Court met at appointed hour; there being no business, Court adjourned till next morning at 9 o'clock.

Wednesday morning, May 11; Court opened according to adjournment; present, same judges as yesterday.

The Grand Jury, being called by their names, reported that they had nothing to offer to the Court; and, there being no business before the Court, the Grand Jury was discharged and the Court adjourned.

The first Circuit Court and Court of Oyer and Terminer held in the county after its organization, began its session the 23d of October, 1810. The following is a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of this term:

At a Circuit Court held in and for the County of Schenectady, in the City Hall of the City of Schenectady, on Tuesday, the 23d day of October, 1810.

Present—His Honor, Mr. Justice SPENCER.

Lyman M. Stanford

vs.

Robert, Alexander and David Winne.

On the motion of Mr. Henry Yates, ordered that the Sheriff return a *venire* and that this cause be brought to trial.

The Sheriff returned the *venire* with the panel annexed, and the following jurors were drawn and sworn: Jesse Coon, Job Leonard, Henry Swits, James V. S. Ryley, Charles Kane, William North, Araham A. Groote, Jesse Dowse, Henry Vandaman, Lewis Burhydt, John J. Van Vorst, Cornelius Putnam.

Witness on the part of plaintiff—Gibbons Wentworth.

The Jury, without leaving the bar, by Charles Keene, their foreman, say that they find their verdict in favor of the plaintiff: six cents damages and six cents costs.

There were three other causes disposed of by the Jury at this term, as follows:

Jeremiah Fuller

vs.

Jeremiah Romeyn, Rebeckah,
his wife, and six other de-
fendants.

The Jury rendered a verdict for the plaintiff of six cents damages and six cents costs.

James C. Duane

vs.

Peter Keehtr.

On trial before a Jury, a verdict was rendered in favor of the plaintiff, \$111 damages and six cents costs.

James Jackson, Ex-dem.,

vs.

Jacob Dillamont, John Dill-
amont and Alexander
Vedder.

Ejectment.

The defendants confess lease, entry and ouster.

This was, as we see, an action of ejectment, with the celebrated James Jackson, Ex-dem.—according to the practice in those days in such cases—a fictitious party. These actions in the early history of the State, owing to the unsettled condition of land titles, were then and for fifty years following the most common actions tried in the courts. Looking at the reported causes for those days, the unprofessional reader naturally supposes that James Jackson, from the large number of cases in which he is plaintiff, was the most litigious being in the State, a troublesome fellow; but, like John Doe and Richard Roe, he is never seen in court, and is only what can be called a legal myth.

There were three witnesses sworn for the plaintiff and three for the defendants. The Jury, without leaving the bar, found their verdict for the plaintiff: one-third of the premises, six cents damages, six cents costs.

The next case was a case of ejectment; one witness sworn for the plaintiff and one for the defendant. The Jury without leaving the bar found verdict for plaintiff: six cents damages, six cents costs.

This was the last cause tried at this term.

Though it was called a Circuit Court and Court of Oyer and Terminer, it was merely a Circuit Court without the criminal side. No Court of Oyer and Terminer had yet been held in the county.

Mr. Justice Ambrose Spencer, who presided, was one of the most learned and distinguished judicial officers in the State or nation. He was appointed in 1804, serving till 1819, when he was appointed Chief Justice of the State. He was the father of that great lawyer and statesman, John C. Spencer.

From the first the Schenectady Bench and Bar took a highly distinguished position, which has been maintained down to the present time. Many of its members have occupied the highest rank in their profession; many have been elevated to the Bench and to other prominent civic positions in the State and nation. On its roll were such honored names as Harmon, Van Ingen, Paige, the Yateses, Duane, Fonda and many others. The Bar never was large in numbers. As late as 1830 it consisted of only twelve members, as follows: Christopher Fonda, admitted to the Bar in 1822; Joshua D. Harmon, admitted 1822; Samuel D. Jones, admitted 1816; Archibald L. Linn, 1823; Alonzo C. Paige, 1818; Abraham Van Ingen, 1818; Edward Yates, 1818; Gilbert F. Yates, 1822; Joseph C. Yates, 1792; Henry Yates, Jr., 1799; John B. Duane, Trumansburg, 1825; and Jacob G. Fonda, at Glenville, 1826. This was the Bar in 1830.

Ten years later, in 1840, the Schenectady Bar consisted of eighteen members, having increased but six in number during that time, as follows: Platt Potter, James M. Bouck, John Brotherson, Stephen A. Daggett, Henry Fuller, James Fuller, Alexander Gibson, Joshua D. Harmon, John Howes, S. H. Johnson, Samuel W. Jones, Alonzo C. Paige, John Sanders, D. C. Smith, Abraham Van Ingen, S. R. Van Ingen, James B. Van Voust, Giles F. Yates.

PRESIDING JUDGES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF THE COUNTY AND OF THE COUNTY COURT.—Gerrit S. Vedder, appointed March 11, 1809; Gardner Cleveland, appointed May 25, 1812; David Boyd, appointed February 5, 1823; Samuel W. Jones, appointed January 31, 1835; Archibald L. Linn, appointed July 17, 1840; Samuel W. Jones, appointed February 10, 1845.

The following Judges were elected under the provisions of the Constitution of 1846: Samuel W. Jones, elected June, 1847; Stephen H. Johnson, elected November, 1851; John Sanders, elected November, 1855; Stephen H. Johnson, elected November, 1859; Judson S. Landon, elected February 1, 1865 (Judge Johnson resigned and Judge Landon, now one of the Justices of the Supreme Court, was appointed to fill his place; he served till the close of 1869, when Walter T. L. Sanders, elected November, 1869, took his place); Austin A. Yates, elected November, 1873; David C. Beattie, elected November, 1879.

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.*—John K. Paige, appointed June 11, 1818; Alonzo C. Paige,

appointed September 3, 1823; Platt Potter, appointed January 15, 1839; Benjamin F. Potter, elected June, 1847; Samuel L. Baker, elected November, 1850; James Fuller, appointed in place of Baker, resigned, August 22, 1851; John Van Santvoort, elected November, 1851; Samuel T. Freeman, appointed in place of Van Santvoort, resigned; Simeon Caulkins, appointed January 7, 1856, in place of Freeman, resigned; Judson S. Landon, elected November, 1856; John G. McChesney, elected November, 1862; John L. Hill, elected November, 1865; Austin A. Yates, elected November, 1868; Alonzo P. Strong, appointed December 24, 1873, in place of Yates, resigned; Daniel C. Beattie, elected November, 1874; Charles E. Palmer, elected November, 1877; J. Teller Schoolcraft, elected November, 1880.

SURROGATES.—William J. Teller, appointed May 30, 1809; Robert Hudson, appointed April 6, 1813; William J. Teller, appointed March 3, 1815; John Yates, appointed February 12, 1816; Giles F. Yates, appointed February 21, 1821; John Sanders, appointed February 13, 1840; David Cady Smith, appointed February 13, 1844.

The County Judges whom we have named, elected under the provisions of 1846, have been Judges and Surrogates down to the present time.

COUNTY CLERKS.*—Peter F. Vedder, appointed March 11, 1809; Joseph Shurtleff, appointed February 26, 1810; Peter F. Vedder, appointed February 14, 1811; Jellis A. Fonda, appointed May 25, 1812; Joseph Shurtleff, appointed March 12, 1813; Jellis A. Fonda, appointed February 13, 1815; Jellis A. Fonda, elected November, 1822; John S. Vrooman, appointed by the Governor 1834; Jonathan C. Burnham, elected November, 1834; Archibald Campbell, elected November, 1837; Silas H. Marsh, elected November, 1843; David P. Forrest, elected November, 1849; Marvin Strong, elected November, 1852; John W. Vedder, elected November, 1858; John M. Banker, appointed May 1, 1861, in place of Vedder, resigned; John McShea, Jr., appointed January 6, 1864, in place of Banker, resigned; James G. Caw, elected November, 1864; J. Fonda Veile, elected November, 1876; Mr. Veile served by re-election till December 31, 1882; Thomas Yelverton, elected November, 1882.

SHERIFFS.—James V. S. Riley, appointed March 11, 1809; John V. Van Ingen, James V. S. Riley, John Brown, Gideon Holliday, Isaac Riggs, Lewis Eaton, A. Van Slyck, elected under provision of Constitution of 1821, November, 1822; John F. D. Vedder, elected November, 1825; Gershom Van Voast, elected November, 1828; Isaac I. Yates, elected November, 1831; Matthew Putnam, elected November, 1834; Myndert M. R. Wemple, elected November, 1837; David F. Reese, elected November, 1840; Anthony H. Van Slyck, elected November, 1843; John G. Van Voast, elected November, 1847; John F. Clute, elected November, 1849; Nicholas Brooks, elected November, 1852; Philip

* The original appellation of this office was that of Assistant Attorney-General, created by the act of February 12, 1796. It embraced several counties. The office of District Attorney was created by the act of April 4, 1801, and the State was divided into thirteen districts, several counties in each District. Albany, Schenectady and Schoharie Counties formed the Twelfth District. By the act of 1818 each county was appointed a separate district for the office of District Attorney. These officers were appointed till the Constitution of 1846 went into effect, when they were elected.

* These officers were appointed by the Governor and Council of Appointment down to 1821, when, by the provisions of the Constitution adopted that year, they were elected by the people.

Dederick, appointed *vice* Brooks, resigned, January 16, 1855; Obadiah L. De Forest, elected November, 1855; Norman M. F. Clute, elected November, 1858; Abraham Gillispie, elected November, 1861; Samuel Wingate, elected November, 1864; Peter Miller, elected November, 1867; Clark V. Worden, appointed by the Governor, 1868; Jacob Vedder, elected November, 1869; James McMillen, Jr., elected November, 1872; Hiram J. Ingersoll, elected November, 1875; Charles H. Van Vranken, elected November, 1878; Jacob De Forest, elected November, 1881; S. L. Clute, elected November, 1885.

The legal history of Schenectady is best illustrated by the lives and careers of men who have made its history by participating as leaders in the various matters of public and historic interest in the county. We shall, therefore, introduce biographical sketches of those distinguished lawyers and judges of the county, without which, it may with truth be said, its history could not be written.

We shall begin with the biography of Joseph C. Yates, a name not only interwoven in the history of Schenectady, but in that of the State, and in a large degree with that of the nation.

"Among the early settlers of Schenectady, or 'Corlear' as it was styled in the olden time, was Joseph Yates, an honest, industrious, intelligent and enterprising English yeoman. He was a native of Leeds, in Yorkshire, and emigrated to the Colony of New York at that fearful period in English history when Charles the First was beheaded to appease the fury of the men who established, under Cromwell, the Commonwealth of England.

"The descendants of Joseph Yates were numerous. Although they preserved the patronymic of their ancestors, they soon lost their nationality in a degree, by their frequent intermarriages with their Dutch and German neighbors."

No family was more conspicuous in the early annals of New York and the Revolution than the Yates family. They were strong and influential Whigs, entering ardently into the struggle of the Colonists for freedom, notwithstanding a large number (perhaps a majority) of the people by whom they were surrounded were Tories, and they were connected with some of the prominent loyalists by marriage. Nearly all the inhabitants of the valley of Mohawk and the intersecting valley of Schoharie were Tories. But the Germans and Dutch, with the exception of those families allied to the Johnsons or under their influence, were patriots, ready and willing to shed their blood for the freedom of their country.

The connection of the Yates family with the Bench and Bar is singularly instructive and interesting.

Robert Yates was one of the first Judges of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, and subsequently Chief Justice; Abraham Yates, Jr., an influential citizen of Albany and afterward its Mayor; and Christopher Yates, father of Joseph C. Yates, whose life we are tracing, were cousins, and at an early day identified themselves with the great movement which terminated in the independence of the American Colonies.

Chief Justice Abraham Yates was a member of the Committee of Public Safety and of the Convention which adopted the Constitution of 1777. When his judicial appointment was tendered to him, his practice as a lawyer was extensive and lucrative. At the Albany bar, of which he was a member, and even at the bar of the city of New York, he was an acknowledged leader; learned, sagacious, eloquent and adroit. Such was his position long before the days of 1776, and when in 1777 he accepted the office of Chief Justice, he did so largely to the injury of his private interests. His judicial duties were peculiarly delicate and dangerous. He sat upon the bench, as a writer has expressed it, "with a halter about his neck, exposed to punishment as a rebel, had our efforts for liberty proved abortive. But no dangers could appall, no fears deter him from an honest performance of the functions of his office."

He represented New York in the Philadelphia Convention in 1787, and was a member of the State Convention called to ratify the Federal Constitution.

Christopher Yates was one of the leading men of Schenectady for many years prior to the Revolution. During the French and Indian War he held a captain's commission in the provincial troops. He took part in the unsuccessful attempt made in 1758 to dislodge Montcalm from his position at Ticonderoga; while bravely leading his men to the assault he was desperately wounded. In the following year he accompanied the army under Gen. Prideaux and Sir William Johnson in the expedition against Fort Niagara, and was present at the capture of that important work. The war over, he returned to his duties and occupation as a citizen. He was immediately elected to the Colonial Legislature, and for many years was a prominent member of that body. When the stirring questions began to be agitated that terminated in the Revolution, he espoused the cause of freedom. When the first alarm of war was raised he gave his services to his country. He accepted a commission in the New York troops, and was very soon promoted to the rank of colonel, in which capacity he served through the war, participating in many of its battles.

He married Jane Bradt, a lady whose many excellent qualities caused her memory to be affectionately cherished by her posterity. She was descended from an old and respectable Dutch family who emigrated to the colony of New York and settled in the lower valley of the Mohawk at a very early period. She was the mother of several children, sons and daughters. Of the former was Joseph C., whose name stands at the head of this sketch.

Henry Yates, a brother, represented the Eastern Senatorial District in 1811 to 1814, 1818 to 1821. He was also a delegate from the county of Schenectady to the Constitutional Convention of 1821. John B. Yates was for a long time an honored and respected citizen of Madison County, and Andrew, "the conscientious, punctual and kind-hearted"—to use the language of Dr. Potter—was an emi-

nent clergyman, a Professor in Union College, a Trustee of Hamilton College, and Principal of the Polytechny of Chittenango. It will thus be seen how intimately connected with every part of Schenectady County—legal, judicial, civil and military—has been the name of Yates.

But to proceed with the life of the distinguished subject of this sketch, JOSEPH C. YATES.

He was born at Schenectady on November 9, 1768. Robust and energetic, physically and mentally, exhibiting an unusual fondness for study and a persevering love of knowledge, he early indicated that he was destined to enter that career of life demanding intellectual endowments, strong executive powers, strengthened and sustained by those moral and religious sentiments which gave strength and dignity to his character. Many of these high qualities of the future Judge and Chief Magistrate of the State were exhibited in his early years. Inheriting many of the traits of his maternal ancestors, he early adopted the favorite maxim of their nation, "*Een-dracht maakt macht*." As has well been said, this motto, like the magic word in the Arabian tale, removed many an obstacle which obstructed his path, and served oft-times to serve and encourage him.

As the means of his father were ample, he enjoyed every advantage for obtaining a finished education, and he zealously availed himself of them.

His education was begun under the tuition of Jacob Wilkie, an accomplished scholar, a tutor in his family. After receiving the instruction of this gentleman for several years he was sent to Caughnawaga, where he continued his studies under the instruction of Rev. Dr. Romain and his scholarly son, Theodoric Frelinghuysen Romain. He remained here until the incursions of Brandt, Sir Guy and Sir John Johnson rendered his residence at Caughnawaga unsafe, and he returned to Schenectady, where he completed his education under the instruction of Rev. Alexander Miller and that distinguished scholar, John Honeywood.

Early in life he decided to enter the legal profession. In conformity with this resolution, he entered the office of Peter W. Yates, a cousin of his father, a lawyer of distinction, and a leading Anti-Federalist, in the city of Albany. Young Yates pursued his legal studies, as he did his classical, with a determination to master it as one of the greatest of sciences, which embodies in it, as has well been said, the perfection of all human reasoning. At that day digests, compends and elementary treatises on law were not as abundant as at the present time, and the legal student was compelled to work out his education in the exercise of unremitting diligence in tracing the intellectual subtlety of the legal writers of that period. But this labor and research tended to strengthen and enlarge the mind, give it profundity and flexibility.

In 1792 Yates was called to the Bar. Robert Yates was then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York. He, too, as we have seen, was a native of Schenectady, a man fitted by education, by high mental qualities, thorough and

exhaustive legal training, for the elevated positions in life which he was called upon to occupy.

After his call to the bar, young Yates opened an office in Schenectady and began the practice of his profession under the most advantageous circumstances. As was said by one of the distinguished citizens of the city at the time, "Schenectady needed a lawyer with the useful qualities which Mr. Yates possessed." He was prudent and sagacious as a counselor, able and skillful as an advocate, familiar with the rules which control real property and with the doctrines which govern the creation and devolution of estates. In the interpretation of devises and the construction of the settlement of deeds, grants, and the operation of trusts and powers, he was peculiarly qualified for the practice which, at that time, largely occupied the attention of lawyers.

Mr. Yates was not only active and useful in his profession, but he identified himself with every public improvement which tended to the advancement of Schenectady.

He was particularly active and useful in promoting the educational interests of the country. With other members of his family—with the Glens, the Fondas, the Van Ingens, the Oothouts, the Veeders and the Duanes—he was very influential in founding Union College. He was one of those to whom the funds raised by subscription were required to be paid, and one of the trustees named in the charter granted by the Regents of the University in 1790. The prosperity of Union College was to him a matter of deep interest. He remained a member of the Board of Trustees until the day of his death, and it may well be said that the history of Union College is largely blended with that of Joseph C. Yates.

In March, 1798, Schenectady was incorporated as a city. Previous to this the corporate property was held under letters patent granted in 1684 by Sir Edmund Andross, then Governor-General of the province of New York. We have said that Mr. Yates was particularly interested in the promotion and prosperity of Schenectady. His efforts and abilities were warmly appreciated by his fellow citizens, who, in return, bestowed upon him the most flattering proofs of their confidence and regard.

For over fifteen years he devoted himself with untiring assiduity to his constantly increasing and highly remunerative legal business, which brought him to the front rank of his profession.

The political arena had the same attractions for him that it has for most lawyers, and he entered it to reap the highest honors in the gift of the people of the State of New York. From this position he rose rapidly from one office of honor and trust to another.

In 1806-7 he was a member of the State Senate from the Eastern District. On the 3d of April, 1807, he was appointed by the Legislature of the State on a commission, consisting of Ezra L'Houmedieu, Samuel Jones, Egbert Benson and Simeon De Witt, to meet and confer in behalf of the State with commissioners appointed by New Jersey, rel-

ative to certain claims of jurisdiction and territory made by the latter as to the extension of its eastern boundary. The able manner in which this commission performed its duty has passed into history. In 1808, Mr. Yates was again elected from the Eastern District to the State Senate. Soon after his election, that illustrious jurist, Brockholst Livingston, then a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, was promoted to the Bench of the United States Supreme Court, and Joseph C. Yates, to the great gratification of the Bench, the Bar and the public, was appointed to occupy the place on the State bench made vacant by Judge Livingston's promotion. He occupied this position with great ability until January 20, 1823, a period of fifteen years, when he was, as we shall more fully see hereafter, elevated to the chief magistracy of the State.

On the 28th of February, 1812, he was chosen a Regent of the University. We should have said that Mr. Yates very early allied himself to the Democratic-Republican party, afterward known as the Democratic party.

In November, 1822, he was elected Governor of the State over Solomon Southwick, his opponent. He resigned his office as Justice of the Supreme Court, and, on the first of January, 1823, was inaugurated Governor of the State. Until Governor Yates assumed the Executive chair, the State Governors, at the opening of each annual legislative session, appeared before the Senate and the Assembly, and delivered the Annual Message orally. He changed this custom by sending a written message to the Legislature, and the precedent he established has been adopted by all his successors.

In his first message he recommended laws for carrying the new Constitution—the Constitution of 1821—into effect; for the encouragement of domestic manufactories and economy in the public expenditures; and a liberal prosecution of the works of internal improvements then in progress. His message was a plain, unassuming, but very practical document.

One of the questions that largely occupied the public mind in the State of New York, pending the canvass for President in 1820, which resulted in the re-election of James Monroe, was that of allowing the people the choice of Presidential Electors, instead of the Legislature. This question entered largely into the gubernatorial canvass of 1823, but was left undecided.

In his message to the Legislature, January 6, 1824, he called its attention to the fact that he desired a change in the mode of choosing Presidential Electors, expressing an opinion that it should be general throughout the country, looking to Congress for the remedy, and that in the meantime the interference of the Legislature, or the surrender of their right to choose the Electors, was not advisable. He again recommended encouragement of domestic manufactures by duties on foreign imported goods. One of the most significant and important measures recommended by Gov. Yates in this message was the revision of the Statutes of the State.

Early in the legislative session of 1824, a heated and angry discussion took place in both branches of the Legislature on the introduction of bills authorizing the people to choose the Electors by general ticket. Previous to this, as we have seen, they were chosen by the Legislature.

A bill favorable to the change in the electoral laws passed the Assembly, but by a majority, instead of a plurality. The object of this bill was intended to effect the vote of New York in the Presidential election, which was to take place that year. In this election Henry Clay, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson and William H. Crawford were candidates for President.

The change was insisted upon by the friends of Mr. Crawford, by which means they believed it would give him the State. His opponents, however, in the Senate defeated the measure by postponing a further consideration of it until the first Monday in the following November, which, in effect, defeated the bill.

Such was the excitement on the question, that Gov. Yates called an extra session of the Legislature for August 2, 1824. A bill providing for the choice of electors by the people, under the present form, passed the Legislature in 1826.

Gov. Yates' term of office expired January 1, 1825, and he was succeeded by De Witt Clinton. In 1828 he was elected President of the Electoral College, the State giving its vote for Andrew Jackson for President.

At the expiration of his term of office he resumed his residence at Schenectady, where he was greatly beloved and honored by its citizens. He remained attached to the Democratic party. He supported the administration of President Jackson and of Mr. Van Buren, though he did so with moderation and courteous deference to the opinion of others.

Gov. Yates was married three different times. His first wife was Mrs. Ann Ellice, of Schenectady, by whom he had no issue. For his second wife he married Miss Maria Kane, of Albany; she bore him one daughter, who became the wife of John Keyes Paige, for many years a clerk of the Supreme Court, and afterward Mayor of Albany. His third wife was Ann Elizabeth De Lancy, by whom he had two daughters; one of them married Mr. J. D. Watkins, of Georgia; the other, Mr. Samuel Neal, of New York City.

In person Gov. Yates was rather above the medium size and height. His appearance was dignified and his manner was easy, courteous and unassuming. If he did not possess a brilliant mind, it was vigorous, well balanced and well disciplined by education and by his relations with the world. In all his private relations he was in every way estimable. He died at Schenectady, on March 19, 1837, having attained the age of sixty-nine years.

HON. ALONZO C. PAIGE, LL.D.—Few names are more distinguished in the legal history of the State of New York than that of Alonzo C. Paige. It is an ornament to the bar, where he was distinguished as a wise, eloquent and faithful counselor. While at the bar, he devoted himself with

untiring industry to his profession. To him, jurisprudence was a science which delighted his polemical mind, and he studied it with avidity and pleasure; but the student was never lost in the practicing lawyer. His deep reading was exhibited in his legal arguments, in his written opinions, and they rendered his briefs and all his legal productions beautiful specimens of legal logic and learning. Like most lawyers, Mr. Paige, in his earlier life, entered somewhat largely into politics, but never to the neglect of his professional duties. He was never what may be called a practiced politician, and, when placed in comparison with those simulators of patriotism—politicians of policy and intrigue—approaching the people with artifice, and addressing them in the ambiguous language of a trimmer, his character shone with peculiar lustre, and it is no exaggeration to say that it did so in all the varied duties of his life.

We cannot better place the character and career of Judge Paige before our readers than in adopting the beautiful memorial of him found in 52 Barbor's N. Y. Supreme Court Reports.

Judge Paige was the son of the Rev. Dr. Winslow Paige, a Presbyterian clergyman, who was afterward called to the then Reformed Protestant Dutch Church. Judge Paige was born in Schaghticoke, Rensselaer County, in 1797. Blessed with a pious parentage and with the advantage of every possible care bestowed in the cultivation of his mind and advancement in education, he entered Williams College at an unusually early age, and graduated from that institution before he had arrived at the age of sixteen. In 1857 he received from his *Alma Mater* the degree of LL.D. After leaving Williams College, his father, designing to educate him for the ministry, sent him to be instructed under the care of the Rev. Dr. Banks, a learned Scotch clergyman, then living in a neighboring parish. After a year or more thus spent, his father, learning of his absence, upon inquiry, found him in a law office, in the city of Schenectady, laboriously studying a profession then most agreeable to his own wishes. He completed his legal term of study with the approbation of his parent, and was admitted to the bar in 1818, and opened an office in the city of Schenectady in 1819. He then adopted that city as his residence, where he lived to the time of his death.

Judge Paige was a student in every sense of the word. When he first assumed the practice of his profession, his mind was so thoroughly imbued with accurate knowledge of elementary law, and his habit of study and investigation so diligent and unremitting, that he arose at once to the first rank in his profession. Though genial in his nature, and enjoying with the highest relish, in his hours of relaxation, the pleasures of refined social associations, his constant midnight lamp was the evidence to all of his love of study.

In 1824 he was appointed District Attorney, which office he held for fifteen years, performing its duties with distinguished credit. In 1826 he was elected a Member of Assembly, and in the three successive years of 1827-8-9 he was returned as the pop-

ular representative of this county in the Assembly. These political duties, though onerous, were never permitted to interrupt those of his profession, in which it seemed to be the great object of his ambition to excel. So rapidly did he rise in his professional distinction that the acute mind of Chancellor Walworth was attracted to him, and in 1830 he selected him as the reporter of his court, to which office he was appointed, and which he held until 1846. The highest encomium that could be paid to his qualifications for that position is the appreciation of the Bar of the State of New York of the skill, ability, and success with which he executed its duties, as manifested in their appreciation of the eleven volumes of the reports which will bear his name to all the future in our judicial history. In 1838 Judge Paige was elected a trustee of Union College, which place he held for thirty years, until his death. He was placed in the principal charge of the finances of that institution, and gave to that duty a constant and most laborious attention. To no one individual during that period is more credit due than to him for the care, security, prosperity and increase of the now exceedingly large and productive property of that institution. Before the adoption of the Constitution of 1846, Judge Paige was twice elected to the Senate of this State, and was thus made a member of the Court for the Correction of Errors. His opinions as a member of that court are distinguished for great clearness, learning and power. Upon the adoption of the Constitution of 1846, and at the first election under it, he was elected a Justice of the Supreme Court, and once after elected to supply a vacancy. He was for two years a member of the Court of Appeals. It would be useless to the judiciary, to his associates or to the bar to speak of the character of the many contributions in our books of reports which bear the impress of his profound legal mind. Suffice it to say, he spent his life in the service of the State, and the ability and soundness of his judicial decisions are a part of its history and have greatly contributed to its honor and fame.

The last public position occupied by Judge Paige was that of a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1867-8. Though then somewhat enfeebled by the disease which terminated his life, his noble and efficient efforts to provide in the Constitution of the State a security against the corruptions of the elective franchise were in harmony with the integrity of his whole life.

He was a gentleman of imposing presence, adopting the old school of dignified and gentlemanly manners, still possessing great urbanity, amenity and kindness. His leading characteristics were open, sincere honesty, undoubted, unqualified integrity, frank sincerity, uniform courtesy, and he was generous and liberal in charities to the destitute. His early religious training impressed upon his mind great gravity of demeanor, and many years before his death he made a public profession of religion and united with the Presbyterian church; at the time of his death he was one of the ruling elders of that church.

Upon the announcement of his death, in March, 1868, the Bar of Schenectady County called a meeting to express their profound sorrow for his loss. This meeting was largely attended. Hon. John Sanders was called to the chair, who, on taking it, addressed his brethren in a speech of deep feeling and eloquence. A committee on resolutions was appointed, consisting of Hon. J. S. Landon, Hon. Thomas B. Mitchell, S. A. Daggett, J. Fuller and A. P. Strong, Esqrs., who presented by their chairman brief, touching resolutions, eloquent and heartfelt expressions of sorrow for the death of the distinguished jurist they memorialized.

In presenting the resolutions Judge Landon said: "We honor our deceased brother, not so much on account of the high places of trust and of honor to which he was called and worthily filled, for none know better than our profession that in our age and time high official place is not the truest evidence of high merit. The bat can reach that eminence as well as the eagle. But we honor him because through all the years of his early and later manhood he dignified, adorned and elevated the profession of the law, even in the estimation of lawyers themselves. No pretense, no art of a demagogue, no superficial acquirements, can give the lawyer high rank among lawyers; only merit, and real merit, can win that. Judge Paige, by the cheerful assent of his associates, long had place among the few who stand at the front rank of the Bar of our State. Others, doubtless, surpassed him in the gift of eloquence which charms while it instructs, but none in that tireless industry, that exhaustive learning, which, guided by the enlightened conscience and disciplined brain, compels, alike from principle and authority, the law to stand, as Bacon called it, 'the perfection of human reason.' Throughout the State Judge Paige commanded the respect and honor of the learned and the good."

We only give a portion of Judge Landon's eloquent and appropriate eulogy. When he said that "throughout the State the departed jurist commanded respect and honor," he uttered the sentiment of the Bench and the Bar in all the State, as was exhibited by many public demonstrations.

The Schenectady Bar has furnished four Justices of the Supreme Court, viz.: Joseph C. Yates, appointed February 8, 1808; Alonzo C. Paige, elected June 7, 1847; Platt Potter, elected November 3, 1857.

HON. PLATT POTTER.

In writing the biography of the eminent jurist whose name appears at the head of this sketch, we speak of one long accustomed to the struggles of the Bar, one who has for many years pronounced the law from the Bench. He is one who, in his sphere, has discharged his duties with such probity and honor, such learning and ability, as entitles him to the highest esteem of the Bench, the Bar, and the public.

Hon. Platt Potter was born at Galway, Saratoga County, N. Y., April 6, 1800. He is perhaps one

of the oldest judges and lawyers in the State; one of those through whom one generation speaks its thoughts, appeals and sympathies to another. His father, Restcome Potter, was a native of Massachusetts, but removed to New York early in life. Notwithstanding the non-combatant principles of himself and his ancestors, who were members of the Society of Friends, he engaged in military service during the war with the mother country, under Ethan Allen (the noted hero of Ticonderoga) when demanding the surrender of the fort in the name of the "Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress."

Later in life he received a colonel's commission in the militia from Governor George Clinton, for whom he named one of his sons. He removed to Saratoga County about 1794, and from there to Schenectady in about 1806, and followed the occupation of farming. A man of energy and public spirit, he was chosen to fill various official positions, being in turn Alderman of the City, Justice of the Peace, and for sixteen years a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He was possessed of commanding influence in his day, and died, greatly regretted, in 1853. The mother of Judge Platt Potter was Lucinda (Strong) Potter, of Litchfield, Conn., who was also descended from patriotic ancestry. During his boyhood, Judge Potter attended the common schools and the academy at Schenectady, from which he graduated in 1824. He immediately began the study of law under the direction of Hon. Alonzo C. Paige, afterward a Judge of the Supreme Court. He was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court in 1828. He entered upon the practice of his profession at Minaville, Montgomery County, and continued thus occupied till 1833, when, removing to Schenectady, he entered into partnership with Mr. Paige, his former preceptor. This connection continued for a period of thirteen years. Upon its dissolution, Judge Potter practiced alone for a time, but was subsequently associated in practice with distinguished legal men who have occupied high positions of official honor both in the State and National Government. In the autumn of 1830, Mr. Potter was elected Member of Assembly from Montgomery County. During this session of the Legislature, a committee, of which Judge Potter was chairman, was appointed to consider the matter of providing improved accommodations for the insane. He made the report, and introduced the first bill to erect an asylum at Utica for lunatics. He served also during the same period of legislative labor on the Judiciary Committee. In 1836 he was married to Antoinette, daughter of the Rev. Winslow Paige, D.D. From 1839 to 1847 he held the office of District Attorney for Schenectady County, and was at the same time Master and Examiner in Chancery, having been appointed to that position in 1828, and continuing to exercise its functions till the abolishment of the Court in Chancery about 1847. In 1857 he was elected Justice of the Supreme Court of New York, running as candidate against his former partner, Judge A. C. Paige. He was returned by a small majority, serving dur-



Matt Potter

ing one of the most critical periods of our political history. During this term he also served as a Judge of the Court of Appeals. He was re-elected in 1865 to the Supreme Bench of the State without opposition. In the same year he was elected trustee of Union College, which office he continues to hold, and which institution conferred on him in 1867 the degree of LL. D.

He was always a staunch Republican in political sentiments. His judicial services during the rebellion, and the four years of trying national experience which immediately preceded it, were of the utmost value to the Government.

Noted for more than usual mental readiness and penetration, and great activity in the performance of every duty, Judge Potter has filled with honor many high official positions in the State. His election to the Supreme Bench of the Commonwealth, and his long continuance as a member of that distinguished body, evince the appreciation in which not only his talents but his worth are held by those whose interest have been the object of his judicial care. His labors as a legislator showed his large philanthropy and his wise statesmanship. As a jurist, he stands high in the State. His argument before the Assembly upon the case of the supposed "High Breach of Privilege of the Honorable the Assembly of the State of New York, in the matter of the Hon. Henry Ray, Member of Assembly from Ontario," exhibits his profound knowledge of the constitutional rights and powers of the judiciary as a co-ordinate branch of the Government, the extent of the law of legislative privilege, and those sound principles of law and equity underlying just legislative and judicial action.

This case was novel and unprecedented; neither in the legislative nor judicial history of this State had any case similar to it been known.

The facts in the case, briefly stated, are as follows: On the 20th of January, 1870, a subpoena, requiring one Henry Ray to appear and testify as a witness in a criminal proceeding then pending before the Grand Jury of Saratoga, Oyer and Terminer, was issued under the authority of that Court, Hon. Platt Potter, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court, presiding. The subpoena was duly served on Ray at the City of Albany. He refused to obey its mandates on the grounds of his privilege as Member of Assembly of the State of New York, then in session. The District Attorney of Saratoga County then applied to the Court for an attachment against Ray for such disobedience. It was granted by the Court, and the officer was directed to serve the same by producing the body of Ray before the Court. He went to Albany on the morning of the 21st and arrested Ray at his lodgings. Ray insisted on his privilege, and refused to accompany the officer, who then informed him that he should take him by force. Under protest, the gentleman submitted himself to the custody of the officer.

When the arrest of Ray was communicated to the House of Assembly, it created great excitement in that body, and elicited an exciting debate.

It was regarded as a question involving a high breach of privilege of the House, and an insult to their dignity. It was finally referred to the Committee on Grievances for grave consideration. This Committee was composed of seven of the then most experienced members of the House. The Hon. Thomas C. Field was Chairman. After thorough inquiry and a full investigation, the Committee presented an elaborate report, stating the facts and circumstances of the case, the effect of the act upon the character and dignity of the House, the encroachments on legislative rights of the law of Parliamentary privileges, and of the danger of the public interests if the precedent coming from such a source should pass without public rebuke. The Committee came to the conclusion "that the arrest of the Hon. Henry Ray, on January 21, 1870—a Member of Assembly from the First District of the County of Ontario—on an attachment issuing out of the Court of Oyer and Terminer then being held in the County of Saratoga, of which the Hon. Platt Potter was Presiding Justice, was a high breach of the privileges of this House by the said Potter, and deserves the censure of this House. Your Committee, therefore, respectfully submit the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the Hon. Platt Potter, Justice of the Supreme Court of the Fourth Judicial District, be summoned and required to appear before the bar of this House for a high breach of its privilege in issuing an attachment for the arrest of the Hon. Henry Ray, a Member of Assembly of the State of New York from the First District of the County of Ontario; and that the House will then and there take such action as the House in its judgment may see fit."

A similar resolution was passed in relation to the District Attorney of Saratoga County, who applied for the attachment against Ray.

The notice to appear at the Bar of the House and answer was served on the Judge February 14, 1870, only two days previous to that appointed for the hearing.

At twelve o'clock noon on the 16th of February, Judge Potter appeared at the bar of the Assembly, when the Speaker of the House briefly stated to him the charges which he was required to answer, and called upon him to state any excuse for his conduct in issuing his attachment against Hon. Henry Ray, a member of the House.

Judge Potter, who had appeared with Hon. Wm. A. Beach, as counsel, proposed that that gentleman should answer for him. Mr. Fields stated that the presence of counsel in such cases was unusual, whereupon the Speaker declared the Judge could not be heard through his counsel.

"Then," said Judge Potter, "I will speak for myself." He then entered on his remarks with the calm confidence of one who can rely upon himself in any emergency. His argument was able, profound and elaborate; every authority bearing on the matter in any way—whether English or American—was fully considered and digested. It did not touch upon anything which

would excite the fancy, for it contained nothing but logic, learning and facts. The Assembly and many Senators who came to be present, and a vast throng of spectators, listened with deep and unwearied attention. All who heard it were lost to everything except the words which fell from the lips of the speaker, standing under such peculiar circumstances. But he had the complete mastery of his subject, and his words flowed with intellectual energy.

We regret that we have not space to give in detail his remarkably able arguments—this great defense of an independent judiciary. It was rewarded by a great and signal triumph.

"Although," said the Judge, in concluding his argument, "I have appeared here and offered this defense, I do not say that I submit this case to you, though probably that will be the effect of your action; but, sir, I stand here *PROTESTING*, earnestly *PROTESTING*, that I am not here in obedience to your power, but here out of courtesy to an independent department of this Government."

At the close of this argument, Thomas C. Fields, Member from the City of New York, rose and made a motion that Judge Potter withdraw from the House until his case could be disposed of.

The Speaker then informed the Hon. gentleman that he could withdraw to the library till his case was decided.

Judge Potter.—"I prefer to stay, and unless driven from the House by its power shall remain."

The Speaker.—"The request of the Hon. Judge will be granted."

Judge Potter.—"I have made no request," taking his seat.

A long and exciting debate in the House followed. Mr. Fields offered a resolution that Hon. Platt Potter, in issuing the attachment for the arrest of Hon. Henry Ray, Member of Assembly from Ontario, was guilty of a high breach of the privileges of this House, and that he be reprimanded by the Speaker in the presence of this House.

This resolution received no support and was withdrawn, whereupon Mr. Alvord, of Onondaga, offered the following amendment to Mr. Field's resolution.

Resolved, "That the Hon. Platt Potter was mistaken as to the privileges of this House in the action taken by him in the arrest of Hon. Henry Ray, but this House do not believe that intention or desire to interfere with the independence or dignity of the House actuated him in the performance of that which he deemed his official duty."

Mr. Wm. D. Murphy offered a substitute for that resolution, to the effect that Judge Potter be discharged from the custody of the House until the hour of twelve o'clock on the first day of March, and that in the meantime the opinion of the Attorney-General be communicated as to the term "Civil Process" in the statute exempting legislators from arrest. This was lost.

The question was then taken upon the motion of Mr. Alvord, which was carried by a vote of 92

to 15, and thus ended the case, a sketch of which only is contained in Barbor's Reports, Vol. 55, page 625.

Very soon after Judge Potter's discharge, he received a large number of letters, "the voluntary congratulations of the jurists, statesmen and lawyers, names distinguished in the State and nation." They were written to the Judge as the indorsement of the soundness of his argument upon the question of the independence of the judiciary. These letters, though not written with the object of publication, have appeared in a pamphlet containing the argument of Judge Potter, published by and at the request of members of the Bar in the counties of Rensselaer, Saratoga, Montgomery and Schenectady, to which publication Judge Potter consented, inasmuch as numerous and material errors and omissions in the newspaper report of the argument demanded correction.

Further evidence of the high esteem in which the judiciary and the bar held Judge Potter, and the gratification his legislative triumphs gave them, was exhibited in the September following that event. A State Judicial Convention was held at Rochester in September, 1870, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Judge of the Court of Appeals. It was chiefly attended mostly by judges and ex-judges. Mr. Potter was unanimously chosen permanent President of the Convention, upon the express grounds of his triumphant victory over the Legislature on the question of the independence of the judiciary.

Judge Potter's written opinions and judgments exhibit the profound lawyer, the thoughtful, patient and investigating judge.

He has attained distinction as a writer. Among his written productions we refer to the following:

In 1870, while still on the bench serving as judge, he prepared a work upon the construction and interpretation of American Statutes and Constitutions. In it he also included, with approval, the law of England, as far as applicable, and as laid down by one Dwarria, a distinguished law writer of that country. The work prepared by Judge Potter is entitled "Potter's Dwarria." It is a work universally approved as authority in all the States of this country. In 1875 he compiled and greatly enlarged, with the later authorities, a treatise on Equity Jurisprudence, originally prepared by John Willard. This is known as Potter's edition of that work. In 1879 he prepared an original work on corporations, in two volumes, entitled "Potter on Corporations." Each of these three works has been recognized in this country as standard authority, and they are now used as books for study and instruction in the Albany and other law schools.

Judge Potter is distinguished for his domestic and social qualities. His own fireside is, to him, the dearest place on earth. His conversation is agreeable and instructive. His long and large acquaintance with distinguished men of the past and the present, and his reminiscences of their careers, give an historic interest to his conversation. He possesses the rare faculty of eliciting the strong points in the person's character with whom he converses.





Yours most respectfully
John Sanders

As years fall upon him, they bring no asperities to his disposition, no dimness to the light of his social and mental powers, nor do they detract aught from the suavity of his manners. He is in every sense of the word a Christian gentleman, and has for many years been an elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Schenectady. His piety is with him a deep sentiment—it is warm, but not heated; earnest, but tranquil; a principle, not an impulse.

That a man like Judge Potter should be held in the highest esteem and affection by his friends and neighbors, is the natural reward of a well-spent life.

JUDSON STUART LANDON was born in Salisbury, Litchfield County, Conn., December 16, 1832. His great-grandfather, James Landon, represented that town in the Legislature of the Colony of Connecticut in 1759, and his uncle, also James Landon, represented the same town in the Legislature of the State just one hundred years later. His father, William Landon, who married Phebe, daughter of Dr. Cyrus Berry, a physician of Dutchess County, was born in the same town, and died there in 1876 at the age of eighty-one. He was a merchant and farmer.

Mr. Landon was educated in the common schools, and in the American and New York Conference seminaries. In 1853 he was a teacher of Latin, mathematics and natural sciences in the academy at Princetown, Schenectady County, N. Y. He at the same time pursued the study of law without an instructor. In 1854 he left the academy and studied law in Yale College for one year. In 1855 he returned to the academy as its principal. He received the degree of Master of Arts from Union College the same year. In 1856 he was admitted to the Bar, and was elected District Attorney of Schenectady County in the fall of that year. Since then he has resided in Schenectady. He was re-elected District Attorney in 1859. In February, 1865, he was appointed County Judge to fill a vacancy, and was elected for four years in the fall of that year. In 1867 he served as a member of the State Constitutional Convention. In 1873 he was elected Justice of the Supreme Court in the Fourth Judicial District. Jesse Gay, of Plattsburgh, was the candidate of the Democrats, but declined to run, and the election of Justice Landon was not opposed.

He is one of the governors of Union University, a trustee of Union College and of the Albany Law School, and at present acting president of Union College. He received the degree of LL. D. from Rutgers College in 1885.

His practice for several years was chiefly confined to litigated cases. In 1868 he was one of the counsel for Robert C. Dorn, Canal Commissioner, who was tried before the Court of Appeals and the Senate upon articles of impeachment preferred against him by the Assembly. He opened the case before the Court and examined the witnesses on behalf of Mr. Dorn, who was acquitted.

AUSTIN A. YATES was born in Schenectady, March 24, 1836; graduated from Union College

in 1854; admitted to the Bar in 1857. He immediately began the practice of his profession, and at the same time became editor of the *Schenectady Daily Times*. During the civil war he raised a company, of which he became captain, and for meritorious service in putting down a rebellion of miners in Pennsylvania he secured from President Lincoln the honorary rank of Brevet-Major. In 1864 he was elected District Attorney of Schenectady, but resigned the office in 1873, on his election as County Judge. In 1879 he was appointed Attorney to the Insurance Department by the State Superintendent of Insurance, which office he held during the Governorship of Alonzo B. Cornell.

HON. SAMUEL W. JACKSON was born in the town of Palatine, Montgomery County, N. Y., June 28, 1821. His father, Allen H. Jackson, was a graduate of West Point, and was a civil engineer of distinction. His mother was the sister of Judge Paige, of Schenectady. He graduated from Union College in 1842, receiving in due time the degree of A. M. He completed his legal studies in the office of Paige & Potter, and was licensed as an attorney in 1843, and as counselor in 1846. He practiced law from 1843 to 1850 in Gilboa, Schoharie County, and for a time in New York, and came to Schenectady in 1858. He was appointed by Governor Hoffman, in 1867, to fill the unexpired term of Judge E. H. Rosencrans. In 1872 he was elected a member of the Constitutional Commission, and is now attorney for the New York Central Railroad for his locality. Judge Jackson is a man of excellent legal attainments and strict attention in the performance of his duties, and has established a flourishing practice, and is highly honored by the community.

HON. JOHN SANDERS.

HON. JOHN SANDERS was born in Glenville, N. Y., in 1802. His father was Presiding Judge of Albany County when Schenectady County was a part of it. He graduated from Union College in 1822, and completed his legal studies in 1825, and practiced for a year in Albany, and afterward in Northampton, Catskill and Clermont, N. Y. In 1836 he settled in Schenectady, and in 1840 was appointed by Gov. Seward Surrogate, which office he held till 1844. He was County Judge from 1855 till 1860. He was identified with the interests of the Bar in various localities of the State, and is the author of a history of the County of Schenectady.

HON. WALTER T. L. SANDERS, son of the Hon. John Sanders, was born in Catskill, N. Y., September 7, 1831. He engaged in teaching and business for some years, and was admitted to the practice of law in Schenectady in 1858. Elected Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in 1860, elevated to office of County Judge in 1870, and member of Assembly in 1876. These various public positions he filled with ability.

EDWARD W. PAIGE was born in Schenectady, July 11, 1844, and graduated from Union College in 1864; from Harvard Law School in June, 1866;

and Albany Law School shortly afterward. He occupies a leading position in his profession, and has served as Assistant State Attorney-General.

HON. EDWARD D. CUTLER was born in Ballston, N. Y., December 18, 1849; was educated in the common schools and at the Classical Institute, Schenectady; was a clerk in the grocery store of Adam Dillenbeck nine years; in 1877 entered the law office of Hon. A. A. Yates, and studied law two years, graduating from Albany Law School in 1880; became a law partner with Judge Yates; in the fall of 1884 was nominated by acclamation by the Democratic party as Member of Assembly for Schenectady County, and gained the election, running 625 ahead of the electoral ticket.

HON. D. C. BEATTIE was born in Salem, N. Y., December 2, 1827, and graduated from Norwich University, Vt., in 1845. He practiced law in Chicago from June, 1850, to October, 1859, and at Albany, 1860-62, coming to Schenectady in February the latter year. He was District Attorney of Schenectady County from January 1, 1875, to January 1, 1878, and has been County Judge since January 1, 1880.

ALONZO P. STRONG, lawyer, whose office is in the Y. M. C. A. Building, is a prominent member of the city and county Bar. He has an extensive practice and stands among the leading members of the Schenectady Bar.

SAMUEL T. BENEDICT, lawyer, was born in Danbury, Conn., in 1837, and graduated from Union College in 1860 and from Harvard Law School in 1862. He practices his profession principally in New York, and has been a resident of Schenectady since 1865.

JOHN A. DE REMER was for a short time tutor of mathematics in Union College. As a lawyer he commands a lucrative practice. He has taken an active interest in politics, affiliating with the Republican party, and has held several important offices, the last being postmaster of Schenectady.

E. NOTT SCHERMERHORN, a descendant of one of the oldest families, though a lawyer of ability, has been principally connected with other pursuits. He was Collector of Internal Revenue from 1864 to 1882, and was appointed receiver of the Jones Car Works, February 4, 1884. He also conducts an extensive real estate and insurance business.

HORATIO GATES GLENN, attorney, was born in Schenectady, December 26, 1859, and graduated from Union College in 1881 and from the Albany Law School in 1883. Since then he has practiced in his native city.

CHARLES HASTINGS began the practice of law in 1872 in Schenectady, and has secured an extensive practice.

J. TELLER SCHOOLCRAFT, attorney at law, began practice at Schenectady in 1876. He was elected District Attorney on the Democratic ticket in 1880 and re-elected in 1883.

OMIE F. VEDDER, law student and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, is a graduate of Union Classical Institute; was a school teacher from 1878 to

1882, and was managing editor of the Schenectady *Daily Union* from April, 1883, to October, 1884. He was Committee Clerk in the Assembly of 1884, and has also been Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

EDWARD E. KRIEGSMAN was born in Albany, N. Y., in 1852, and became a lawyer in 1878, and added the insurance business three years later. He was City Clerk from February, 1881, to May, 1883, and since June, 1882, has been Secretary of Board of Health and Registrar of Vital Statistics.

JACOB W. CLUTE was born in Schenectady, October 12, 1846, and was admitted to the bar of Schenectady County April 16, 1868, and has been located in the city since. He has represented the Second ward as Alderman two terms. He is also Secretary of the Schenectady County Bible Society.

JAMES A. GOODRICH, attorney at law, was born in Schenectady in 1856, and graduated from Union College in 1879, and from the Albany Law School in 1882.

SCHENECTADY COUNTY BAR.—Hon. Frothingham Fish, Justice; David C. Beattie, Louis C. Beattie, Samuel T. Benedict, Walter Briggs, Demetrius M. Chadsey, Jacob W. Clute, John F. Clute, Edward D. Cutler, Simon Calkins, David Daggett, John A. De Remer, Robert Furman, James Fuller, Horatio G. Glen, James A. Goodrich, Charles Hastings, Samuel W. Jackson, Edward E. Kriegsmann, Robert J. Landon, R. T. Lomasney, John E. Myers, John McShea, Platt Potter, Edward W. Paige, Charles E. Palmer, David Cady Smith, Everett Smith, Gerardus Smith, Walter T. L. Sanders, Charles P. Sanders, Jr., Alonzo P. Strong, J. Teller Schoolcraft, E. Nott Schermerhorn, Alex. J. Thomson, Wm. J. Van Epps, George O. Van De Bogert, Austin A. Yates, James A. Van Voast, Alex. M. Vedder; Thomas Yelverton, Clerk of the Court; William J. Stevens, Crier; Jacob De Forest, Sheriff.

ECCLESIASTICAL SOCIETIES.

THE REFORMED NETHER DUTCH CHURCH, SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

At the first settlement of Schenectady in 1662, there were but five Dutch churches and ministers in the Province, viz.: those of

New Amsterdam (New York), whose ministers were Johannes Megapolensis and Samuel Drisius.

Beverwyck (Albany), Gideon Schaets.

Breuckelyn (Brooklyn), Henricus Selyns.

Esopus (Kingston), Hermanus Bloom.

Midwout and Amersfort (Flatbush, L. I.), Johannes T. Polhemus.

Of these the church at Beverwyck, founded twenty years before, was the oldest in the colony, except that of New Amsterdam.* Her first dominion (1642 to 1647) was Johannes Megapolensis, who now ministered in New Amsterdam; the second,

* A church (Presbyterian so far as having ruling elders) composed of settlers who founded Southampton, L. I., in June, 1640, was organized at Lynn in May of that year, and a similar church was organized at New Haven in October of the same year by the settlers of Southold, on the same island, the settlement of this latter town having also been effected in the month of October.

Gideon Schaets (1652-1690). The latter probably assisted at the organization of the church at Schenectady, to which he occasionally ministered until his labors ceased in his own church in 1690.

The date and circumstances of this organization are involved in much obscurity, the early records of both churches being lost. But from occasional mention made in contemporaneous papers and records, it is safe to say that the church of Schenectady was in existence between the years 1670 and 1680, and probably earlier. Thus, on the occasion of the death of Hans Janse Eenkluyt, in 1683, the deacons petition the court at Albany for letters of administration on his effects, and say * * * "*dat eenen Hans Janssen op den 7 meert 1674 heeft overgedraegen aende aermen van Schaenheclade zeecke syne plantage,*" etc., etc.; in other words, that Hans Janse, in 1675, made over to the poor of Schenectady his plantation, on condition he should be maintained in his old age and weakness, which they say they have done, and paid the expenses of his burial. Now this *plantage* was simply the "Poor Pasture," and was the property of the church from Eenkluyt's time down to 1862, when it was sold.

These facts seem to point to the existence of the church as early as 1674, for it is a well-known fact that the Dutch churches were the guardians of the poor, the orphans, and the aged, who were without natural protectors, and received and dispensed large alms and property for this purpose.

The next incidental mention of this church is found in the records of the city of Albany. In February, 1679, "the court and consistory of Schenectady requested that *Domine* Schaets may be sent four Sundays in one year to administer the Lord's Supper to said place and community, which request is granted in so far that *Domine* Schaets is allowed to go four times in one year to administer the Holy Sacrament, but not on a Sunday, whereas it would be unjust to let the community [of Albany] be without preaching."

Thirdly, The prosperous condition of the poor fund of the church from 1680 to 1690 shows pretty clearly that it had been organized some years previous to the former date. At the close of the year 1689, *Domine* Thesschenmaecker audited the deacons' accounts, and found that the unexpended alms contributed for the poor amounted to about 4,000 guilders, of which about 3,000 guilders had been loaned to individuals on bonds dating back in one case to 1681. Though the Dutch were a liberal people in matters appertaining to their church, it is not probable that such an accumulation of alms was made entirely within the ten years above mentioned, especially when their numbers are considered, and that in this time the parsonage house was constructed and their first *Domine* was called and maintained. It is fair, therefore, to conclude that the Dutch Church of Schenectady was certainly an organized body in 1674—probably much earlier.

The first twenty years of the village was a struggle with the hardships of frontier life; its energies were spent in removing the forest and subduing the soil. For religious privileges it was dependent upon Albany until 1683, when the little hamlet

having grown sufficiently strong in numbers and wealth, called its first minister. The earliest mention of *Domine* Thesschenmaecker in the church records is found in a book of miscellaneous writings, the first leaves of which unfortunately are wanting.

The following is a copy and translation of the first page in its present mutilated condition:

(Copy.)	
Uytgyeve.	[1683?]
aen Myndert Wemp,	F. 48
aen een kan,	8
aen Jan Roelofsen voor.....	24
aen 5 Witte broden,	1
aen domine Tassemaker.....	24
aen emanual Consaul,	6
aen Lubbert gysbertse voor 2 dagen Wercke,	6
aen spyckers van Albanie,	6
aen den ½ duyzend harde steen,	18
aen 2 bevers aen Laseysers tot het huys te singelen,	48
aen 12 gulden aen....door stacken en....voor verb-	
ruyck aen de heyninge,	12
27 april voor wyn tot het naght mael aen domine tass-	
chenmaker betalt,	20
27 May domine Schats Verstelt,	36
Schoonmaken van der Kerche,	13
.....	1.10
.....	5.
.....	2.10
Voor wyn van het naght mael,	20.0
aen Adam Vroom,	24.
nogh aen domine tasschemaker voort maken vande	
heyninge aen het erf,	45.
nogh voor 7 maal witte broot tot het avont mael a	
fl. 1.10 a maal,	10.10
Class permurent een dagen ryden,	18
2¼ dagen aen de heyninge,	22
Voor te singelen van 't huys,	12
aen 2 Vragsten posten gasacht,	6
2 glazz Raamen,	10
Somma,	fl. 516-13

(Translation.)	
Expenditures.	[1683?]
To Myndert Wemp, guilders,	F. 48
To [paid for] a pot,	8
To Jan Roelofsen, for.....	24
To 5 white loaves,	1
To domine Tassemaker.....	24
To Emanuel Consaul,	6
To Lubbertse Gysbertse for two days' work,	6
To nails from Albany,	6
To the half thousand hard bricks,	18
To two beavers to Laseysers shingling the house,	48
To 12 guilders....for stakes....for use on the fence,	12
27 April, For wine for the Lord's Supper paid to	
Domine Tasschenmaker,	20
27 May, presented to Domine Schaets,	36
Cleaning the church,	13
.....	1.10
.....	5.
.....	2.10
For wine for the Lord's supper,	20.0
To Adam Vrooman,	24.
Also to Domine Tasschemaker for making the fence	
to the lot,	45.
Also for white bread 7 times for the Lord's supper a	
fl. 1.10 a time,	10.10
Class Purmerent [Van der Volgen] one day's carting,	18
2¼ days on the fence,	22
for the shingles of the house,	12
To two loads of posts sawed,	6
2 window glasses (or sashes),	10

Total, florins 516.13

From these accounts we learn that *Domine* Thesschenmaecker came to Schenectady before the

death of Dominie Schaets (1690), and that the first of the five houses of worship built by this society was then built. We know little about it except that it was small and inconvenient, and that it stood at the junction of Church, State and Water streets.

Dominie Pieter Thesschenmaecker, little known except by his tragical end, came to this country from Guiana, whither he had gone from Utrecht a young theological student, and is first mentioned in a petition for his services, dated 1676.

It appears that at this time he had not been ordained, for in 1679, on application from Newcastle on the Delaware, the Governor directed Dominie Newenhuysen to examine and induct him into the ministry of the Protestant Reformed Church.

After his ordination, Dominie Thesschenmaecker departed immediately for his new field of labors. Here he remained three years until 1682, when he left and accepted a call from Schenectady, where he labored six years with reasonable success.

Until 1700 the church was without a pastor, and indeed it does not appear that the people had any religious privileges, except such as might be had by a visit to Albany, until 1694, when Dominie Dellius began to minister to them occasionally. His first recorded visits that year were on the 11th of April and 9th of October, on which occasions new members were added to the church and children baptized. In 1695 he came four times, viz.: on the 2d January, 27th March, 26th June and 9th October. In 1696 five times: January 8th, April 15th, July 1st, September 19th and December 30th. In 1697 three times: April 6th, June 30th and November 10th. And in 1698 four times: 27th April, 20th July, 19th October and 28th December. In all eighteen visits in five years.

In 1699 Dominie Dellius returned to the Fatherland, and Dominie Johannes Petrus Nucella, succeeding to his place as minister of Albany, visited Schenectady once—on the 31st of August. The following year he came twice, viz.: on the 9th January and 25th May.

The number of members added to the church by these two ministers was twenty-five; the number of children baptized seventy-six, seven of whom were Indians.

But no sooner was peace proclaimed in 1697 than both village and church began a new career of prosperity. Within five years a second minister was called, and a new house of worship was erected.

Dominie B. Freeman (or Freerman) succeeded Dominie Dellius in 1700. He was a man of mature age. In 1698 he was a member of the church of Amsterdam, and on the 9th of March of that year was licensed to preach by the Classis of Warden and Overryland, and ordained by the Classis of Lingen, March 16, 1760. He immediately departed for his distant charge, accompanied by Dominie Johannes Lydius. On the 20th of July they arrived in Albany, where the latter remained, while the former passed on to Schenectady, and on the 28th commenced his labors as pastor of the

church and missionary to the Mohawks. The latter office had been filled by Dominie Dellius for many years, and both for political as well as religious reasons, it was considered important to continue so powerful an agency among the native tribes.



Barnardus Freeman

In regard to this matter the Earl of Bellmont, Governor of the Provinces, said to the assembled Sachems of the Five Nations, on the 26th of August, 1700: * * * "I have sent to England for ministers to instruct you in the true Christian religion. I expect some very soon; for the present I shall settle Mr. Vreeman, an able, good minister, at Schenectada, who I intend shall be one of those that shall be appointed to instruct you in the true faith. He will be near the Mohacks, and in your way as you come from [the] several castles to this town (Albany), and will take pains to teach you. He has promised me to apply himself with all diligence to learn your language, and doubts not to be able to preach to you therein in a year's time." In a communication to the Board of Trade the Governor says: "I send your Lordships a copy of Mr. Freeman's letter. He is a Dutch minister at Schenectady, and a very good sort of a man."

As Albany was the headquarters of Indian trade as well as of the yearly Council held with the Five Nations, Dominie Lydius was also appointed to instruct the natives in the Christian faith, and "ye better to enable him to serve them in ye work of the Gospell, ye Interpretesse [Hillitie] was appointed to be his assistant in that affair as formerly." * * *

In the five years spent at Schenectady, Dominie Freeman became well versed in the Indian tongue, so as not only to preach, but to write in it, and so attached were the natives to him, that five years after he left Schenectady they petitioned Gov. Hunter for his reappointment, "and that he live [with us] at our Castle and not at Schinnectady nor Albany."

Probably his was the first attempt made to translate the church service or portions of the Holy Scriptures into the language of the Mohawks.

The salary of the early ministers of this church was one hundred pounds of New York currency (\$250), house and garden rent free, pasturage for two cows and a horse, and sixty cords of wood delivered at the parsonage. The salary commenced from the day the Dominie sailed from Holland, and the expenses of the voyage, until he arrived in Schenectady, were paid by the church. The following is Do. Freeman's first bill, rendered August 25, 1700:

"16 mar. 1700 to 25 aug. the Consistory is indebted to Domine Freeman:

"For current salary from the 16 march to the 25th of august,— is five months and nine days and amounts to a sum of fifty pounds and something more,—is in sewant, gl. 2.000

"Also expenses incurred on the voyage, in fresh provisions, wine, brandy, vegetables and hens, besides about three weeks expenses on the Isle of Wight,—is the sum of gl. 374 (or \$46.75)

gl. 2.374 (or \$296.75)

"Schenectady. BARNHARDUS FREEMAN."

Trifling as this amount may seem, the little community were unable to raise it, and on the 3d of September, 1700, applied to the Common Council of Albany for permission to solicit contributions in Albany. In reply, the Commonalty advise "that they first goe and Visite there own Congregation, and if they do not obtaine said Salary by them, then to make their application to the Commonality at ye next Court day."

When Do. Freeman was appointed missionary to the Indians by Gov. Bellomont, he was promised a salary of £60; for expenses, £15; and for the interpreter, Laurens Claese Van der Volgen, who was his assistant, £25.

The Governor expected to obtain this salary from the corporation for the propagation of the gospel at Boston, but in case he failed there, promised to secure it for him out of the revenue of the Province.

It is presumed that said corporation declined to assume this burden, and, as a consequence, the General Assembly passed an act in his favor.

On the death of Do. Lupardus, of Kings County, in 1702, the consistory of the churches there applied to Gov. Cornbury for permission to call Do. Freeman, who at the same time gave encouragement of his acceptance.

Fearing their minister might be enticed away from them, the Consistory of the church in Schenectady, the next year, presented to Lord Cornbury a remonstrance against his leaving; notwithstanding which, and also that the Governor objected to his leaving, he accepted the call. It was not, however, until the summer of 1705 that he left for Flatbush, the license to change his pastoral relations being finally granted by Gov. Cornbury on the 26th of December of the same year.

Soon after Do. Freeman came to Schenectady, the house of worship then used was found to be unfit for the accommodation of the inhabitants and Indian proselytes; but as the little community had not yet fully recovered from the effects of the

late incursion of the French and their savage allies, the funds necessary for a new house could not be raised without aid from abroad. A petition, therefore, was presented to Gov. Nanfan in 1701, asking permission to circulate a subscription throughout the Province for this purpose.

This petition being favorably received by the Governor and Council, on the 27th October, 1701, he issued his license to the inhabitants of Schenectady to receive contributions from the people of the Province for the space of six months from that date, and directed all justices of the peace, schouts and other officers of his Majesty, as well as ministers of the gospel, to use their utmost endeavors to aid this laudable object. This appeal to the liberality of their neighbors was successful, and the church was probably finished in 1703. The site was that of the first house of worship, at the junction of Church, Water and State streets, and the dimensions, fifty-six north and south by forty-six feet east and west, Amsterdam measure. The burying ground adjoined the church upon the west side, and was fifteen feet wide by fifty-six feet long. Speaking of Schenectady in 1710, the Rev. Thomas Barclay says: "There is a convenient and well-built church, which they freely give me the use of."

Probably it was substantially built of stone, for after its abandonment in 1734 as a place of worship, it was used for some years as a fort. By the year 1754 it had been either removed or used as a barracks, watch-house and market; by 1768 the site was clear and designated the Market Place.

The removal of Do. Freeman was a disheartening event to the church. He had gained the confidence of the people and considerable influence over the neighboring Indians. To obtain another minister from Holland, in their present circumstances, was impossible. They were not only a small, but a poor people and, without aid, not in a condition to support a minister.

For the following ten years they were destitute of the stated ministry, being only occasionally visited by the ministers of Albany and other more distant settlements.

Between the years 1705 and 1715, Dominies Johannes Lydius and Petrus Van Driessen, of Albany, Petrus Vas, of Kingston, and Gualterus Du Bois, of New York, made 24 visits to Schenectady, baptizing 152 children, of whom 19 were Indians. In all this time the records show but one member added to the church.

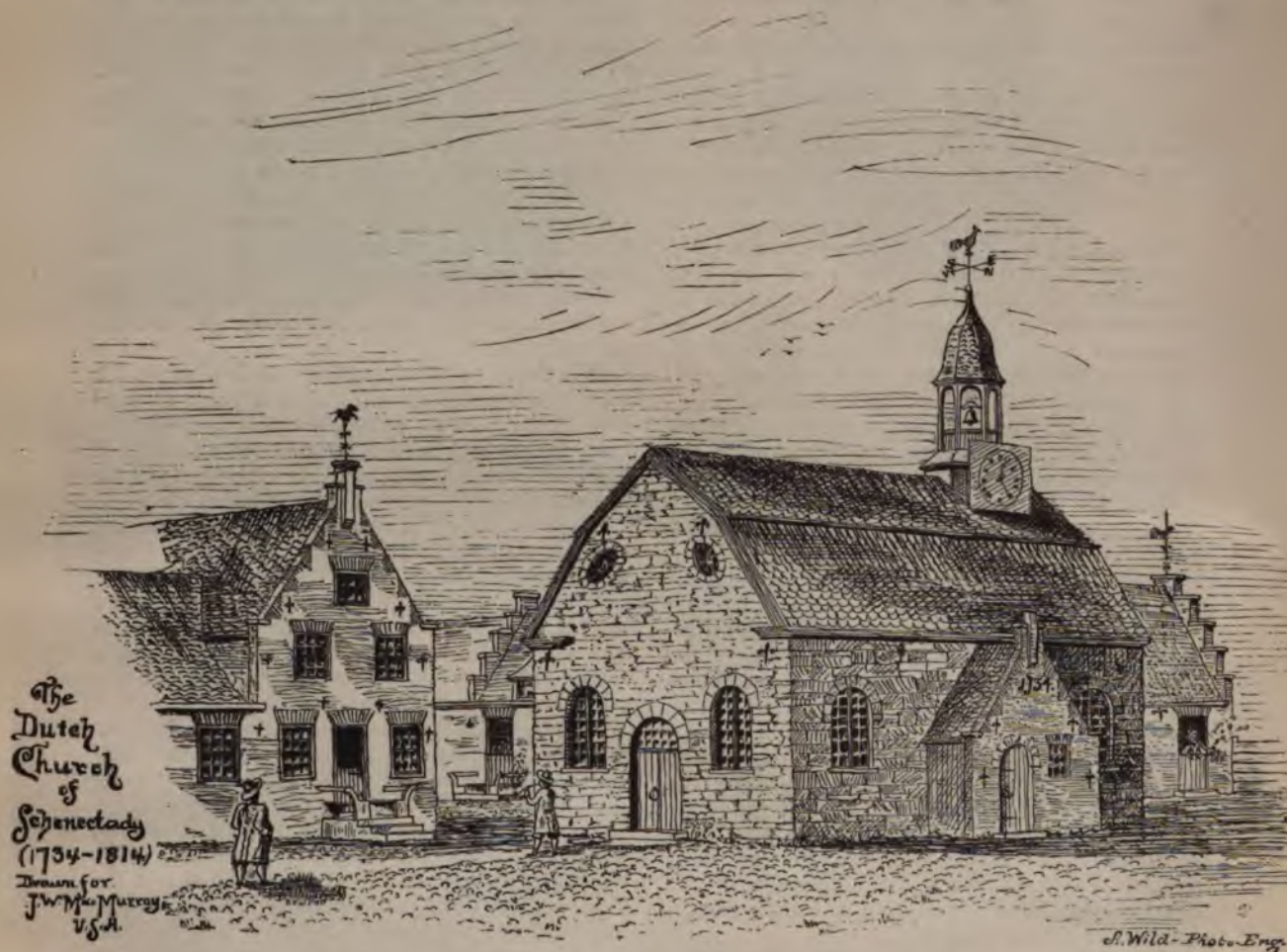
Rev. Thomas Barclay, chaplain to the fort in Albany, preached occasionally in Schenectady.

As early as 1713, the church applied to Governor Hunter for permission to call a new minister, and received his license, dated July 27th that year. On the 17th day of May the following year, the consistory addressed a letter to Willem Bancker, merchant, of Amsterdam, and Rev. Matthias Winterwyck, of Alphen (Dalphin?), Holland, authorizing them to procure a minister for the church, and promising him a salary of £90, to commence on his arrival, a dwelling free of rent, firewood at the door, a large garden, and free pasture for two

cows and a horse. The result of this negotiation was the arrival of Dominie Thomas Brouwer, in July, 1714. He died on the 15th of January, 1728. In his will he left £25—one-half to the church and the other for the poor; his gun, pistols, horse, table linen, etc., to various members of the families of Gerrit Symonse Veeder and Johannes Banker, and his books, best clothing, linen, etc., to his two brothers. He speaks of neither wife nor children.

The fourth minister of the church was Do. Reinhardus Erichzon. His call or *Beroep brief* was dated 30th March, 1728, two and a half

months after the death of his predecessor. He was probably a native, or at least a resident, of Groningen, North Holland, and before his call to Schenectady had ministered three years to the churches of Hackensack, Paramus and Schraalenberg, New Jersey. The consistory agreed to give him a salary of £100 (\$250), a parsonage house in good repair, a garden kept in a fence, pasture for a horse and two cows and firewood at the door. Dominie Erichzon left Schenectady in October, 1736, having received a call to the church of Freehold and Middletown, N. J.



The matter of erecting a larger church began to be agitated soon after Do. Erichzon became pastor, and the congregation was able not only to build a house which for the time was both substantial and spacious, but also to furnish it with a bell and clock.

As a preliminary step in this new enterprise, a subscription paper was circulated through the town in 1730, by which £322 was obtained, and extending the appeal up the valley a still further sum of £33-15 was subscribed in money and wheat. The entire sum did not amount to quite one-third the cost of the church, which was £1,167-17-10 (\$2,919.73); the remainder was probably

derived from the accumulations of former years and from sales of lands and leases—the gift of the trustees of the common lands.

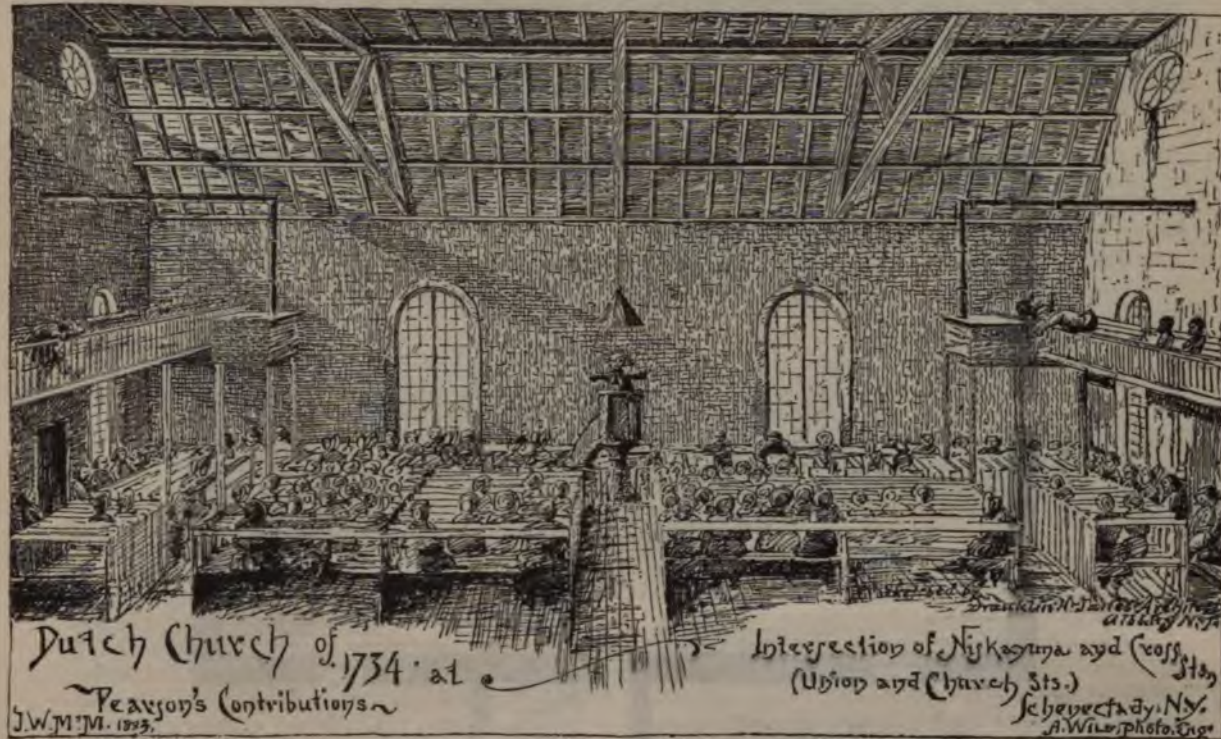
The following is the heading of the subscription, and is interesting as showing the forfeiture for non-payment of the pledges made for the building of this edifice:

“We, or I, the underwritten, promise to pay to Arent Bratt, Jacobus Van Dyck, Dirck Groot and Cornelis Van der Volgen, and Robert Yates, Jacob Swits, Wouter Vrooman and Jan Barentse Wemp, Elders and Deacons, or to their successors, the sum which we, or I, subscribe with our hands, so soon as the foundation of said church is laid; and

failing of the same, we, or I, promise to pay ten pounds current money if we, or I, are negligent in the payment of the sum of money which I with my hand subscribe. As witness our hands or my hand."

After thorough preparation, the work was begun in the spring of 1732. Hendrick Vrooman was

Baas (Boss) of the men, of whom seventeen were carpenters, besides masons, glaziers, etc. His wages was seven shillings a day; the others were paid from five to six shillings. The *Preeck-stoel* [pulpit] was built by Pieter Cornu for £20, and Gysbert W. Vandenberg, of Albany, contracted to do the mason work for £80.



This house was dedicated January 13, 1734, on which occasion Do. Erichson preached in the morning, and Do. Van Driessen, of Albany, in the afternoon. The following Sabbaths, January 20 and 27, the pastor continued the subject of his first sermon.

This third house was situated in Church street, at its junction with Union street, and was eighty feet in length north and south, and fifty-six feet wide. The trustees of the town conveyed to the church not only this site, but also the land around the same ten feet in width, except on the west side, where, by reason of the narrowness of the street, it was limited to five feet. The building material was blue sandstone or graywacke from the quarries east of the village. It had two entrances, one on the south end, the other on the east side, over which was built a porch with a staircase leading to galleries. The roof was in the gambrel style, a few specimens of which still remain in the city. The belfry and clock tower stood on the north end. As seen from the east end of Union street, it presented a pleasing and imposing appearance. The tub-shaped pulpit, fixed upon a narrow pedestal, and surmounted by a conical sounding board, was built against the west wall, in front of which an open space was railed in called the *Doophuisje*.

Here the Dominie stood while administering the rite of baptism.

There was a gallery upon all sides save the west, whether built with the church or at a later day is not known, as no mention is made of it before the year 1788, when it began to be occupied by adult males who could not obtain seats below. In this, as in other Dutch congregations, the males and females sat apart, the former upon raised seats, called *gestoelte*, placed against the walls of the church, and the latter in slips or *bancken* upon the floor of the house.

In the first allotments of seats little regard was had to family relations, nor was there any exchange of sittings, and so long as the yearly rent was paid they were the property of the occupants, but in case of removal or death passed to the nearest relative of the same sex. Only in case of non-payment of the customary rent was a seat forfeited. It was then allotted anew at the discretion of the consistory. Every transfer of a sitting cost the new occupant twelve shillings, besides the yearly rent of five shillings for males and four shillings for females. The same sitting was in some cases retained in the same family for three or four generations. The slips were numbered from one upward. The deacons and elders sat in the four benches on

each side of the pulpit, and the magistrates and other men of note upon the long benches on the west side of the church, extending from the pulpit around to the south door.

During the eighty years that this church stood, but few and trifling changes were made in the slips or *bancken* first erected, and these chiefly by additions to accommodate the increasing congregation. The number of places (*plaatsen*) occupied by adults at different periods were as follows:

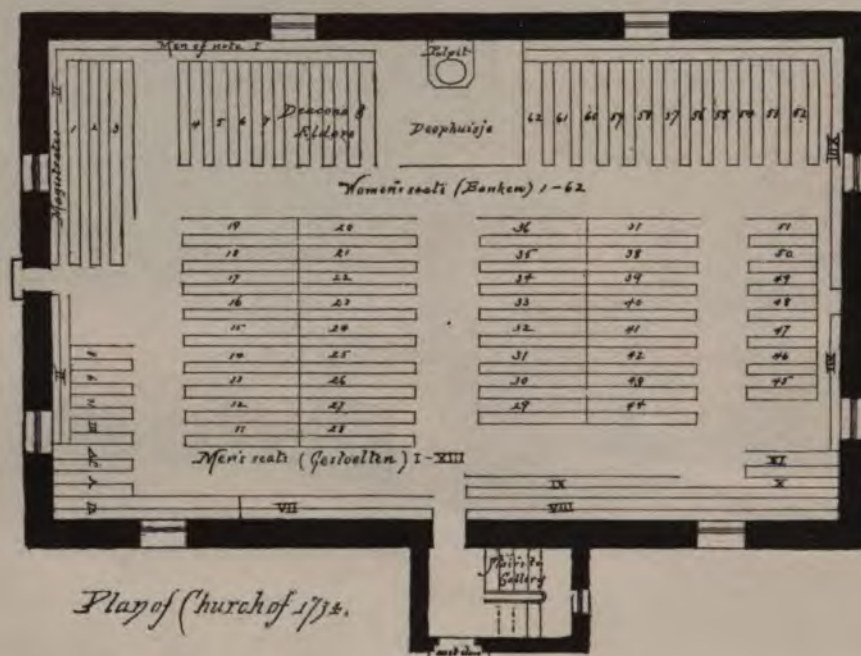
In 1734, men's seats, 86; men in gallery, 0; women's seats, 218; total, 304.

In 1754, men's seats, 104; men in gallery, 0; women's seats, 328; total, 432.

In 1788, men's seats, 125; men in gallery, 35; women's seats, 346; total, 506.

From 1788 to 1814, when the old church was removed, newcomers could not rent seats without great difficulty, except in the gallery, which being chiefly occupied by boys and negroes, was not considered quite respectable.

The people worshiped on the Sabbath almost to the beginning of this century even in the coldest winter, without any other artificial heat than that



derived from foot-stoves. The first stoves used in this church were bought in December, 1792, and set up that winter. They were placed upon two platforms elevated to the height of the gallery, and reached by climbing over the balustrade. It is said that the *Kloktuyser* was accustomed to replenish them at the beginning of the dominie's sermon; and, to notify the congregation of the importance of his vocation, was particularly noisy in opening and in shutting the stove-doors. By this arrangement "the top of the church was comfortable, but the people below had to carry foot-stoves to keep themselves warm." So unsatisfactory was this experiment in warming the church that the matter was discussed by the consistory, and the result was that the elevated platforms were removed and the stoves placed upon the floor of the church.

The bell for the church was procured in Amsterdam and did faithful service for more than a century, until it was cracked in 1848. It bore the following inscription:

"De Klok van de Neder-duidsch gemeente van Sconechiade door Haar self bezorght anno 1732. Me fecerunt De Grave et muller Amsterdam."

It was the custom to ring it three times before commencing religious service down to January, 1810, when the consistory

"Resolved, that in future the bell shall be rung twice, as usual, previous to the commencement of public worship, and that tolling shall be substituted for the third ringing." It is said the bell was also rung at the close of service, that the servants at home might have the dinner ready on their masters' return.

In 1740 the church had a public or town clock, purchased probably at the same time with the bell.

Although the church had owned considerable real estate more than fifty years, it had no corporate existence in law and could neither hold nor alienate property, save through individuals acting as its trustees. Feeling the precarious nature of such a tenure, when the church edifice was finished, the consistory petitioned the Governor and Council for a charter. This application was favorably considered, and on the third day of August, 1734, a charter was granted under the great seal of the province.

PARSONAGE.—The old parsonage on the site of the present church had now stood fifty years or more and was falling to decay. It was doubtless the house mentioned in the deed of 1715 to Do. Brouwer and the consistory, and was probably of wood, as were all other houses of this date. It was therefore removed in 1753, and a new building of brick erected on the same lot. It was one story and a half high, with the usual pointed Dutch gable ends. There were two rooms in front on the Union street side. The door was in the middle, over which was a gable. This house stood about sixty years, when it gave place to the church of 1814.

As early as 1805 the subject of repairing the old church was agitated. The church which had stood for so long in mid-street in Albany had gone before the march of improvement, and there was a feeling that Schenectady should follow in its wake. In 1810 the consistory appointed a committee to draw a plan and to report as to the possibility of a new church building, and still another committee to meet the wishes of those who desired to see the old church put in repair. The result of this was a decision to build anew on the parsonage lot. There was much opposition to this on the part of those whose affections clung to the old church, and many thought that the church should be built further east, as the population was extending in that direction. The two sites of the former churches were finally sold to the city to be thrown open to the streets, and the contracts for the new house of worship signed in 1812. In the autumn of 1814 it was so near completion that it could be used for public worship, and on the 20th November the last services were held in the old building. In the treasurer's book is the following entry under date 5th July, 1814: "To paid for liquor when the old spire was taken down, 37½ cents." Nov. 30, 1814, Charles Kane and Henry Yates bought the old church for \$442.50. The new church was built but little larger than the old one, and it is a singular fact that for a period of 128 years, from 1734 to 1862, the church accommodations of this congregation remained substantially the same. In the meantime the little hamlet grew into a village, and the village into a city of respectable dimensions. The church had but few competitors in the field, and though it became the mother church of this region, with one exception all her colonies were sent out some years subsequent to 1814. It is proper to make special mention of Nicolas Van der Volgen and his wife, who were large benefactors to this church. By them were given the high brass chandeliers in 1792, and the pleasant organ in 1797, which some now living remember to have heard. The great chandelier (groote kroon) had eighteen lights, besides which there were seven lesser ones (kleyndere kroonan) of six lights each, costing altogether £67-10 New York currency. The gift for the organ was allowed to accumulate until probably 1826, when it was obtained from Henry Erben, of New York, at the probable cost of \$1,000. It was consumed by fire with the church in 1861.

VOORLEZER AND VOORSANGER.—The duties of these officers were usually united in the same person and defined by resolution of the Consistory:

January 8, 1810, "*Resolved*, that in future the Clerk of the Church shall commence public service in the morning with the reading of the ten commandments, a chapter of the Bible, and Psalm or Hymn at discretion; and in the afternoon with the reading of the articles of the Creed, together with a Chapter, and Psalm or Hymn." In addition to the above he had "the right and emoluments of burying the dead of the congregation." Next to the minister he was the most important officer of the church.

To improve the psalmody of the congregation, on the 13th of February, 1794, the consistory took the following action: "The consistory take into consideration the defective condition of the Dutch Psalmody in the public worship of this church. *Resolved*, that Cornelis De Graff, the chorister, shall use his endeavors, in each family of this village and elsewhere, to obtain pupils in singing, on condition that each shall pay one shilling and sixpence a month, the consistory also adding thereto for each scholar for the term of six months one shilling and sixpence a month; provided a certificate be shown to the consistory signed by Mr. De Graff that each scholar has diligently spent his time as he ought.

"Also, Mr. De Graff, in singing, shall try to observe the measure of the half notes and soften his voice as much as possible." Mr. De Graff was voorzenger for twenty-nine years, and tradition says that the advice given him by the consistory was by no means inappropriate. It is said that while sitting on the "back stoop" of his house, which stood where the late Mrs. Abel Smith's house now stands, on State street, he beguiled the evening hours in summer by psalm singing, and that his voice could be clearly heard two miles up the river in a straight line.

KLOKLUYER.—The sexton of the church was called the *Klokluyer*, or bell-ringer, and his duties seem to have been not only to ring the bell, but to keep the benches and seats in proper order and to dig and fill the graves. The earliest mention of this officer in the church records is the following:

"At a consistory held this 1st July, 1696, it was resolved that Simon Groot, Sr., for ringing the bell and arranging the benches and stools in the church, shall receive annually, out of the income of the church or of the deacons' money, the sum of 60 guilders seawant [\$7.50], to begin on this 1st of July."

This Simon Groot was the first of the name that settled here, and the ancestor of all the Groots found in this vicinity. He and his five sons were carried captives into Canada by the French and Indians in 1690.

The salary of the sexton was the same down to 1735, when it was increased to the yearly stipend of \$15.

Margaret Veeder, widow of Symon Volkertse Veeder, held the office during the years 1748-9 for \$8.25 per annum.

From 1750 to 1758 Sara Marselis was bell-ringer, the duties being performed for £4, or \$10.

In 1759 Isaac Quackenbos' "neger" rang the bell, and "Peeter Seesar" (Cæsar), from 1760 to 1766, for £6 per annum.

Jacob Van Cise was sexton from 1771 to 1791, at a salary of £10, and was succeeded by his son Gysbert, who was dismissed from the office in 1799 "for delivering the skull of a corpse to the house of Dr. Anderson, and which he was compelled to return in the presence of one of the members of the consistory, and deposit in the place whence it was taken."

The sexton was required to keep order in the church during public worship, and was indemnified against any legal process "that might arise for correcting or turning out of church the unruly and refractory; provided he do not essentially injure or scandalously abuse any person."

Mr. Janus Lighthall was appointed sexton in 1799.

BAPTISMS.—The baptismal register of this church from 1694 to this time is entire, with the exception of ten years during Dominie Vrooman's ministry; and as all children were baptized, both colored and Indian as well as white, legitimate and illegitimate, it is the only authoritative source, if rightly interpreted, whence the descendants of most of the old Dutch families of this region can derive their pedigrees. In early times baptism was always performed in the church, unless unavoidably prevented, and within a few days after birth; sometimes on the birthday. And it was the duty of the dominie to register each baptized child, with the parents and witnesses' names.

The number of registered baptisms from 1694 to 1852 is 11,396.

MARRIAGES.—The marriage register of this church contains the names of 2,543 couples married between 1694 and 1852.

Under the Dutch Government of New Netherlands, marriage was considered a civil contract, and might be confirmed either by a magistrate or a minister of the gospel. Preliminary to such confirmation, however, the bans were published three Sundays or market days by the minister of the church where the parties resided, or by a magistrate in the court, after which the marriage could be confirmed by any minister or magistrate on presentation of a certificate of such publication. No particular place was required for the marriage ceremony. Sometimes it was performed in the church and sometimes in private houses. As it was impossible or inconvenient to comply with the law in all cases, a dispensation and license was granted by the Governor, on the presentation of a "penal bond of £500 that there was no lawful let or impediment" to such marriage. The practice of issuing licenses ceased with the British rule in this State in 1783.

When a widow or widower with infant children married again, it was customary for the parties to contract with the Orphans' Court guardians to protect and preserve the property of said children until they arrived at lawful age.

COURTSHIP.—Comparatively little can be learned about the courtship customs in the early days of the frontier settlements. However, "old maids" were unknown, and widows seldom died in widowhood, unless at very advanced age. They easily and soon secured another husband, a very necessary protection in the sparse settlements of the border lands. The girls were needed at home, and were in great demand as housewives, and needed no fortune save health and strength as their marriage portion. If marriages of convenience were made, the wealth brought to the husband was in the bride's strength and housewifely skill, and the family influence gained by the match. The custom of "*bundling*" was probably practiced to some extent in all the early settlements along the Hudson and in this vicinity. The records of Albany County show some early cases in this locality. At the time of the Revolution it was generally prevalent among the Dutch, insomuch that anything wrong in it did not prevail.

Speaking of Van Corlear, Washington Irving says: "Van Corlear stopped occasionally in the villages to eat pumpkin pies, dance at country frolics and *bundle* with the Yankee lasses."

Tradition says that within this century sermons were preached against it in the Dutch church here, and that it was earnestly defended.

FUNERALS.—At funerals no women attended the body to the grave, but after the body was borne out, remained to eat cakes and drink spiced wine. They retired quietly before the men returned, who then, in their turn, participated in the funeral feast, and finished with pipes and tobacco. The best room in the house was specially appropriated as the "dead room," and was rarely opened but to be aired and cleaned. Wealthy citizens, in anticipation of a death in their families, were accustomed to procure a cask of wine during their lifetime, and preserve it for this purpose. The preparations for the funeral included setting tables through the house, and placing thereon plates of cake, plates of tobacco, and sometimes hundreds of pipes. At the side of each plate of tobacco was a small roll of paper for lighting the pipe, also candles lit, and wine put up in bottles, and set on the table with wine glasses. The spiced wine was placed on the tables in silver tankards. The occasion was more like a wedding than a funeral.

The coffins were black, made with a regular taper from head to foot, the top like the pitched roof of a house. A large silver plate, the name and date of death and age carved on it, was the only ornament. When removed from the house it was placed upon a bier at the door, a black pall, owned by the church, thrown over it, and it was borne by six or eight pall-bearers, who had four yards of linen given them for scarfs, and the minister had the same. They bore it upon their shoulders to the grave, followed by the relations, even to remote cousins, two by two, and likewise invited guests. No one attended funerals in olden time without an invitation. A list was made out by the friends of the deceased, and the sexton would go around and invite those whose names

were thereon. The charges for attending funerals were regulated by the consistory of the church. The following is a list of prices established in 1771:

"Rules for Cornelis De Graff, appointed sexton the 18th of November, 1771, in regard to what he is at liberty to take for inviting (the friends) and burying (the dead).

"For a person of twenty years old and upward, 16s. to 20s.

"For a person of 15 to 19 years, 15s. to 19s.

"For a person of 10 to 14 years, 14s. to 18s.

"For a person of 5 to 9 years, 13s. to 17s.

"For a person of 1 to 4 years, 8s. to 12s.

"For an unbaptized child, when the bell shall be rung once, 6s. to 10s.

"For ditto when the bell shall not be rung, 3s. to 7s.

"For the Great Pall, 3s.

"For the Little Pall, 9d.

"All thus when he is obliged to invite (the friends) within the village; but when he likewise is obliged to extend the invitations without, he may ask 4 shillings (altered to 6 shillings) more each; this is to be understood, as far as Claas Viele's (upper end of Maalwyck), or this side; but when he is obliged to extend invitations further—to Syme Vedder's (Hoffman's Ferry) or this side—then he may ask 3 shillings (altered to six shillings) more.

"The prices in the above rules are increased by reason of the hard times."

The grave-digger and bell-ringer was allowed to charge as follows:

"For a person of 7 up to and above 20, for a grave, 3s., and for the bell, 3s.

"For a child 1 to 6 years, for the grave, 2s., for the bell, 3s.

"For an unbaptized child, when the bell shall be rung once, for the grave, 2s., and for the bell, 2s.

"For tolling the bell he may likewise ask one shilling more."

He was required at his own expense to keep proper tools for making and filling graves, likewise proper cords, etc.

Prior to the year 1800 there had probably been no hearse in the village. In all funeral processions the bier and pall were used; hence it was not convenient to carry the dead a great distance in this manner, and the people in the country buried their dead on their own lands.

The consistory of the church procured the first hearse in December, 1800, for the use of the congregation and the public for an established fee.

ENDOWMENTS.—Probably no church in the State outside the City of New York was so munificently endowed as that of Schenectady. In 1740 she owned fully twelve square miles of land in this county, which, had it been conveyed by long leases and not in fee, would have been worth to her now from 300,000 to 500,000 dollars. All this magnificent estate has passed away; at this time she possesses barely a fine house of worship and the lot upon which it stands.

FINANCES.—In early times the Dutch churches often acted as guardians of widows and orphans;

they provided for the poor and kindly looked after the aged and infirm who had no natural protectors; and it was not unusual for the latter to place their property in the hands of the consistory, from whom they received, from time to time, such support as their wants required. The consistory were the almoners of the church. Every Lord's day a collection was taken of the free-will offerings of the people for this, and certain other purposes, and this duty was not omitted even though there were no present objects upon whom their bounty might be bestowed.

In the outset, the little community of Schenectady seems to have had few or no poor people; with the exception of a "shirt for a captive Frenchman," it does not appear from the accounts that the deacons gave a stiver to any person during the years 1687-9. As the funds accumulated they were loaned on bond at 6 per cent. interest to citizens. Thus, in the audit of 1689, obligations to the amount of nearly 3,000 guilders were included in the assets of the church. Moreover the consistory traded with another portion of these funds, buying and selling brass kettles, nails, linen, thread, baize, coverlets, etc.

Particularly unfortunate has it been for Schenectady that the flames of 1690 spared almost nothing of her early records; with the exception of a few leaves of the deacons' account book, all is a blank.

In 1790, and for some years later, there was great scarcity of small change. To meet this inconvenience, many individuals, corporations and churches issued "shin-plasters" for one penny and upward.

On the 6th of September, 1790, the deacons announced to the consistory that in consequence of the scarcity of copper money the weekly collections in the church had fallen off nearly one-half, and therefore inquired whether there was no way of remedying the loss. The Reverend Consistory, having considered the matter, came to the unanimous conclusion to issue "shin-plasters."

The consistory immediately had printed £100 in one, two, three and six penny notes. They were issued by the deacons, and the money received for them was held for their redemption.

PASTORS FROM 1740 TO 1885.

During the four years succeeding Dominie Erichzon the church was without a settled pastor, but was occasionally visited by the ministers of Albany, although they made efforts to secure a pastor from Holland. They finally succeeded in securing Dominie Cornelis Van Santvoord, of Staten Island, who was born in Leyden, and began his ministry in Schenectady, August, 1740.

Dominie Van Santvoord was a man of good natural parts and fine culture. He preached not only in his native tongue, but also in French and English. Under his ministry the church enjoyed a good degree of prosperity. His sudden demise at the early age of 55 years was a sad loss to the town.

For nearly three years after the church was again destitute of a pastor.

The sixth minister of the church was Dominie Barent Vrooman, the first native of the Province ever called to this sacred office. His great-grandfather was one of the pioneer settlers, and, together with his son, was killed in 1690, in the sacking of the village by the French.

He was born in 1725, and began his studies for the ministry under Do. Van Santvoord and finished them under Do. Frelinghuysen, of Albany. In 1751 he went to Holland and studied at the University of Utrecht and obtained ordination. He was inducted into the sacred office as pastor of the congregations of New Paltz, Shawangunk and Wallkil, his parish embracing more than two hundred square miles. Although called to Schenectady September 18, 1753, he did not arrive there until November 1, 1754.

The expense and trouble of calling a minister one hundred years ago is very imperfectly understood by those of the present day. All candidates in theology were obliged to spend more or less time at a university in the Fatherland, and after ordination they returned at the expense of the church calling them. In case of a subsequent removal, it was customary for the church making the call to pay a portion of this expense. The call of Do. Vrooman cost the church in Schenectady \$563. For thirty years he remained pastor of the church, though for four years preceding his death he was unable to preach but occasionally, and married 386 couples, baptized 3,521 children, and received 453 into church membership. He is said to have been a man of much heart, familiar and social, and popular with his people.

Dominie Romeyn was the seventh minister, and the last of that long line of ministers who had, from the days of Thesschenmaecker, conducted the entire service of the church in the Dutch language. His active spirit infused new influence into the church and community; an influence that is felt to this time in the educational institutions of the city. He was born in Hackensack, N. J.; graduated from Princeton College, 1765; ordained May 14, 1766; and on the first Sabbath of November, 1784, was installed pastor of this church.

Among his first labors in Schenectady was an attempt to improve the schools and establish an academy and seminary. The result was a charter for Union College, which institution he lived to see commence its prosperous career under the management of Doctors John Blair Smith, Jonathan Edwards and Jonathan Maxey.

His health began failing in 1801, and about the middle of 1802 he became permanently incapacitated for the full performance of his ministerial duties and relinquished all claims upon the church, accepting instead a salary of \$520, and was to preach one sermon on the Sabbath in Dutch.

In 1797 the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church elected him one of its Professors of Theology, the duties of which he discharged with honor to himself and benefit to others till the close of his life. He was twice honored with the offer

of President of Queen's (now Rutgers) College, and received from her the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

During his ministry the church was seriously disturbed on the subject of English preaching, as there was preaching in English in the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches, and fears were entertained that members of the Dutch congregation would be enticed away from their own church. Various compromises were made by which there was preaching in both English and Dutch at different stated times. The agitation began in 1794, and was carried on with more or less intensity for some years. Dominie Romeyn died on the 16th of April, 1804, and with his death ended stated Dutch preaching in the church of Schenectady.

The Rev. Jacob Sickles was the eighth minister. He was born in Tappan in 1772; graduated at Columbia College in 1792; and was licensed by the Classis of New York in 1794. He was called as assistant minister of this church in October, 1795, being then a divinity student, at a salary of \$500.

The Rev. John Hardenberg Meier was the ninth minister. He graduated at Columbia College in 1795, studied theology under Dr. Livingston, and was licensed by the Classis of New York in 1798, at the age of twenty-four years. He accepted a call as assistant minister to Dr. Romeyn, in 1802, at a salary of \$662.50, with a house and grounds. The following May he was installed. In less than a year his venerable colleague was removed by death, and within two years thereafter the church was called to mourn his death also.

For two years after the death of Do. Meier, the pulpit was supplied temporarily by ministers from the neighboring churches. The church called Rev. John Brodhead Romeyn, son of the late pastor, at a salary of \$1,000, with house and firewood. For some reason the call was not accepted, and a call was made to Mr. Cornelius Borgardus, and he became the tenth minister of the church. He was licensed by the Classis of New York in 1808, and was ordained and installed pastor of this church the 27th of November the same year, being in the twenty-ninth year of his age. He remained with the church four years, and died December 15, 1812, aged thirty-two years.

The first application made for the use of the church for a Fourth of July celebration was June 24, 1811, when the consistory granted the request, "provided no instrumental music shall be used and nothing be said in the oration to wound the feelings of any political party."

The Rev. Jacob Van Vechten became the eleventh minister, and remained the longest of any of its pastors. He graduated from Union College in 1809, and was licensed by the Classis of New Brunswick in 1814, at the age of 28 years. He was inducted into the pastoral office in this church June 8, 1815. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Williams College, and at the time of his death was senior trustee of Union College, to which office he was elected in 1837. He resigned his pastorate here on the 6th of March, 1849, after a service of more than 34

years. He died in 1868 at the residence of his son-in-law, Prof. Huntington, in Auburn, N. Y.

The twelfth minister was Rev. Wm. J. R. Taylor, D. D. He was born in Schodac, Rensselaer County, N. Y., July 31, 1823; graduated at Rutgers College, 1841, and from the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick, N. J., in 1844, and was ordained the same year. His pastorate in Schenectady began in 1849 and terminated in

1852. During the last year of his ministry here the church "enjoyed a gracious revival of religion." It was chiefly through his exertions that the Second Reformed Church of Schenectady was formed.

In 1853 the Rev. Julius H. Seelye, now President of Amherst College, was settled over the church, it being his first charge. He was born in Bethel, Conn., September 14, 1824. He graduated



PRESENT DUTCH CHURCH.

from Amherst College in 1849, and from Auburn Theological Seminary in 1852.

After a year of study at Halle he returned from Europe, and preached his first sermon at Schenectady May 22, 1853, and received a unanimous call as pastor of the church and was installed August 10. Dr. Hickok, Vice-President of Union College, preaching the sermon. He severed his connection with this church to accept the professorship of Mental and Moral Philosophy in Amherst College, having been its pastor for a little more than

five years. No communion service passed during his ministry here without the reception of some members to the church on a profession of faith, and the annual contributions for benevolent purposes more than doubled during his pastorate.

The Rev. Edward E. Seelye, D. D., was the fourteenth minister. He was born in Lansingburgh, September 24, 1819; graduated from Union College in 1839, and from Princeton Seminary in 1843. He was installed over the church in Schenectady November 1, 1858. During his pas-

torate here the church was destroyed by fire, and the present beautiful and costly edifice erected, the dedication sermon being preached by himself, August 6, 1863. He died while on his summer vacation, August 10, 1864, at Sandy Hill, the place of his former charge.

The Rev. Dennis Wortman, D. D., became the successor of Dr. Seelye. He graduated from Amherst in 1857, and from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1860. Because of ill-health he resigned his charge here in 1870, greatly to the regret of a loving people. During his stay \$11,000 of indebtedness on the church was paid, and the iron fence put around the church.

The Rev. Ashbel G. Vermilye, the sixteenth pastor of the church, was born in Princeton, N. J., in 1822; graduated from New York University in 1840. He preached his first sermon in the church here August 6, 1871, the anniversary of the burning of the old and the dedication of the new edifice. His labors ceased by resignation, December, 1876.

The Rev. Wm. E. Griffis, the present pastor, was born in Philadelphia in 1843; entered Rutgers College in 1865. After graduation, in 1869, he traveled in Europe for a few months, entered the New Brunswick Theological Seminary for a year, and in December, 1870, went to Japan to engage in government educational service. Returning to this country in 1874, he spent two years in the Union Theological Seminary of New York. He received a unanimous call to the pastorate of this church, May 1, 1877, while yet a member of the senior class, and was ordained May 31, 1877. The degree of D. D. was conferred upon him by Union College in 1884.

He is the author of "The Tokio Guide," "The Yokohama Guide," "Map of Tokio, with Historical Notes," "The Mikado's Empire," "Japanese Fairy World," "Corea, the Hermit Nation," "Corea, Without and Within," "Schenectady First Church Memorial" (with Prof. Pearson), and is now preparing a life of Arendt Van Curler, the founder of Schenectady.

CONCLUSION.—This church, with its vast estates and civil interests, must have had many valuable papers pertaining to the ancestry of the people and defining many historical facts which are now but conjectures. A committee "to examine the papers in the old box belonging to the Board, and to destroy all such papers as they may deem useless," was appointed in 1813, and they probably destroyed much history. It is said that the old records of Virginia were destroyed to cover up the sins of the destroyers' ancestors, and tradition has it that the consistory of this church in its business aspect was a close corporation for the benefit of its friends.

However this may be, this committee swept out of existence the original titles to much of the land, and, doubtless, obliterated the ancestral trace of many worthy as well as unworthy Dutch settlers whose descendants are numerous throughout the country.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH (EPISCOPAL).

This church was the natural outgrowth of the English occupation from 1664 to the Revolution. After the peace in 1754, at the close of the old French war, few troops were stationed here, and those of the inhabitants who desired to hear preaching in the English language, such as the English, Scotch and New Englanders, were forced to build a church for themselves. Paucity of numbers and of means delayed this for years, though the foundation was commenced in 1759.

The old church still stands—transepts have been added in same style of architecture. Unfortunately, the old sounding board has been removed from over the pulpit, but the general quaintness of the interior has been preserved.

"At an early period, the Rev. Thomas Barclay, missionary of the English church at Albany, visited Schenectady, and, so far as can be ascertained, was the first Episcopal minister who held service in the place. Writing to London, to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, by which he had been sent over, he says, under date of 1710: 'At Schenectady I preach once a month, where there is a garrison of forty soldiers, besides about sixteen English and about one hundred Dutch families. They are all of them my constant hearers. I have this summer got an English school erected amongst them, and in a short time I hope their children will be fit for catechising.'

"Two years after, Mr. Barclay left Albany, where he was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Miln, and he by other missionaries, till 1746. These gentlemen doubtless often crossed the pine plains to minister to the few churchmen here, though I do not find on our records any mention of their visits or acts. The Dutch pulpit became regularly occupied by its own pastors, and the English people, who were the feeblers of the two, seem to have been brought under its predominating influence, instead of *vice versa*, as Mr. Barclay so fondly anticipated.

"In 1748 the Rev. John Ogilvie came to Albany as rector of St. Peter's. And the same year arrived in Schenectady a layman, Mr. John W. Brown, whose memory is appropriately preserved by a tablet on the walls of the church. He is said to have come from London, and was only twenty-one years old at the time of his arrival here. From him probably it received its name, St. George being the patron saint of his native country.

"The earliest baptism, by an Episcopal minister, on the parish register, is that of a daughter of Mr. Brown, in 1754, by the Rev. Mr. Ogilvie, who performed the same office for another child of Mr. Brown in 1859. It also records the baptism of three other children of Mr. Brown by Dutch ministers—the Revs. Thomas Frelinghise and B. Vrooman.

"That year—1759—the erection of the church edifice seems to have been undertaken; for under date of that year the parish books still preserve,

among other items of disbursement, to 'Richard Oldrick and Horseford, for digging the foundation of the church, £4 3s. 9d.' Amounts for drawing timber, and work of the like kind, are mentioned from that date onward. The woodwork was done under the superintendence of Mr. Samuel Fuller, who also became the builder of Johnson Hall. He was master of the king's artificers, and came to this vicinity from Needham, Massachusetts, with Abercrombie's army. To obtain the necessary assistance for fulfilling his part of the work on the church, he went back, in 1762, to Needham, and engaged several carpenters; and besides having their regular wages while here, they were to be allowed a specified sum for the seven days it would take them to come from Needham, and also for the same number of days for their return. It was several years before the building was completed for occupancy and use, though as early as 1767 we find sums collected for pew rents among the treasurer's papers. These papers also show the names of persons who subscribed for the erection of the church, with their respective amounts.

"At that time lived in the Mohawk Valley Sir William Johnson. He was a major-general in the British service, and general superintendent of Indian affairs in North America. The English church had in him a warm friend. He not only contributed liberally himself to the erection of this building, but also obtained subscriptions from his friends in various parts of the colonies—at one time £61 10s. from the Governors of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and other distinguished gentlemen, while attending a treaty of peace at Fort Stanwix. Sir William was also of great service to the church here, in procuring for it missionaries from the Venerable Society in England, which seems to have consulted him in most of its appointments to this region of country. Through his co-operation the wardens obtained from the Governor of the colony a charter for their church in 1766, and Sir William was requested to act as one of the trustees. He was a frequent worshiper in these walls, and tradition says that his pew, which was on the south side, was distinguished by a canopy. The church, as it then was, according to a ground plan of it in one of the old books, had two doors—one on the west end, and the other on the south side (the arch of which still remains), with a communion table against the east wall in the middle, and directly in front of it two desks for reading and preaching; and only a part of the church was finished with pews.

"During those years the building was used more or less by the Presbyterians, who had none of their own. A curious statement exists on this point, said to have been found among the papers of a Mr. Alexander Kelly, a member of that body. He says: 'Betwext 1760 and 1770, the Episcopalians and presbyterians agreed & build a Church Betwext them, The Former to goe in at the west Door the Later at the South Door when the Church was Finesht John Brown Belong to the English Church went to New York & get it Consecrated under the Bishop unknown to the presby-

terians, The presbyterians highly ofended at this John Duncan, James Wilson, James Shuter, Andrew & Hugh Michel, Andrew McFarland & Wm. White & Alexander Merser purchest a lot From a Gentelm in New York Colected money in varies places To Build a Church. The Dutch Inhabitants Seing How they were Served advanct very Liberal in money Boards plank Nails Hinges & paint The Church was built about the year 1770.'

"Mr. Kelly's representation of the case must be as faulty as his orthography. To prove this, it is enough to state two facts—one, that there was no bishop in this country till 1784, thirty years after this alleged transaction; and the other, that the church was never 'consecrated' till nearly one hundred years later by Bishop Potter, in 1859.

"As connected with this part of the ecclesiastical history of Schenectady, we take the liberty of quoting from a note on the subject, received by the Rector from the Rev. Dr. Darling: 'One of the oldest members of my church (Presbyterian), when I came here, informed me that the south door was walled up after the Presbyterian exodus, "and the Lord put a curse on the mortar so that it would not stick;" though, as she had no prophetic credentials, you may prefer to account for it in some other way.'

"It was to matters of this kind that Dr. Darling's predecessor, the venerable Dr. Backus, probably referred in his historical sermon, preached in 1879, when he said: 'Ritualism and evangelicism long contended here for the mastery.' One of the champions in that contest was this same Mr. Kelly—Sandy Kelly, generally called—who, when a pitch-pipe was introduced into the Presbyterian worship, rushed down the aisle, and out of the door, crying 'Awa' with your box o' whistles!' What would he have said and done had his evangelic ears been shocked by the noble organ which now vies with that of St. George's in improving the ritual of God's house?

"While the church was being built, the Rev. Thomas Brown, who succeeded Mr. Ogilvie at St. Peter's, Albany, and after him the Rev. Harry Monroe, seemed to have ministered now and then to the church people here, baptizing their children and burying their dead, until the arrival of Mr. William Andrews. This gentleman had been for some time catechist among the Mohawk Indians. He was a native of Great Britain. He returned home in 1770, when he was ordained by the Bishop of London, and appointed missionary at Schenectady. He may be considered the first resident minister, or rector, of St. George's. Mr. Andrews opened a grammar school here in 1771; but the labor attendant on this and his parish broke down his health, and he relinquished the mission in 1773, and went to Virginia.

"Mr. Andrews was soon succeeded by the Rev. John Doty, a native of Westchester, and an alumnus of King's (now Columbia) College. It was now the eve of the Revolution. Like many of his brethren, Mr. Doty suffered between a sense of duty and the pressure of the times. He was ar-

rested and kept in ward for awhile. On being released, he left for Canada; and divine service was suspended in the church during the remainder of the war.

"When the independence of the States was established and peace declared, in 1782, the few members which Mr. Doty had been forced to abandon were almost entirely scattered. The church edifice had become dilapidated, the windows were broken out, and desolation reigned within and around. Soon after, in 1790, the parish was admitted into union with the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which had become duly organized. But it was some time before it could enjoy the services of a settled clergyman, depending upon those of Albany and other neighboring towns.

"In 1798 the Rev. Robert G. Wetmore became rector, in connection with Christ's Church, Duanesborough; and from that day its affairs moved on in uninterrupted order and with increasing success. At the first election of the corporation, Charles Martin and John Kane were chosen wardens. In a register book, then begun, there is a rude pen-and-ink sketch, by Mr. Wetmore's own hand, of the church as it then was—a little, oblong stone structure, fifty-six feet long (about half its present length) by thirty-six feet wide, with three windows on each side (the old south door being walled up), and in front a small wooden steeple, crowned by a low bell tower, with a cross upon it. It contained thirty-six pews (about one-third of its present number), and no gallery, except across the west end, which was reached by a stairway within the church in the northwest corner. The pulpit, with a long flight of stairs, was against the east wall in the center, with a reading desk in front, and a clerk's pew in front of that, and the altar, with rails, on the north side—an arrangement similar to that still existing in the old church at Duanesborough.

"Mr. Wetmore resigned in 1801, and some years elapsed before his place was regularly supplied. Meanwhile the services of neighboring clergy were occasionally obtained, and several improvements made in the church edifice. At a meeting of the vestry in 1804, 'Charles Martin and John W. Brown represented to the board the necessity of taking down the steeple, on account of its being in a decayed situation, and proposed to obtain by subscription a sum adequate to the erecting a new steeple.' Messrs. David Tomlinson and Wm. Corlett were appointed the committee, and the result was the wooden tower (which was taken down twelve years ago) and the beautiful belfry and spire which crowned it and which were deemed worthy of preservation.

"The foundation of that tower was laid by a young man who had then just arrived in Schenectady, and who, though born and reared a New England Congregationalist, soon attached himself to this church, and afterward became most intimately identified with all its changes and improvements—David Hearsey.

"The next rector was the Rev. Cyrus Stebbins, who, having been a Methodist minister at Albany,

was ordained with special reference to this parish, by Bishop Moore. He was here from 1806 to 1819.

"For a year or two after Dr. Stebbins' resignation the services were kept up, with much acceptance to the congregation, by Mr. Alonzo Potter, as lay reader, then tutor of Union College, and afterward the Bishop of Pennsylvania. A tablet to his memory has been placed by the trustees of the college on the walls of St. George's.

"In 1821 the Rev. Alexis P. Proal was called to the rectorship, and he continued in it till 1836. During those fifteen years several substantial additions were made to the church property. A house, with lot, belonging to Ahasuerus Wendell, was bought for a rectory by the church's side on the north; and more sittings being found necessary in the church, side galleries were erected, running from the west to the east wall.

"Dr. Proal was succeeded by the Rev. Albert Smedes, during whose rectorship of three years a radical change was made in the church edifice. Increased accommodations being required, the vestry debated whether to pull down the old building and erect a new one, or to enlarge. The latter course was adopted; and so, in the spring and summer of 1838, two transepts, or wings, were added to the old nave. Under the pulpit was a hole, where the clergyman could go and change his surplice for a black gown between the service and the sermon. Thirty pews were gained on the lower floor, besides many others by continuing the galleries around the new transepts; and the graceful arch over your heads was shut out of sight by a floor making the whole upper ceiling flat. Another important event in the history of the parish during Dr. Smedes' rectorship was the purchase of the house next south of the church, called the Peek house, where the Sunday school met and the sexton lived. The garden was added to the burial ground."

The most efficient services rendered this church during its long history were by the Rev. William Payne, D. D., who was born at Portland, Middlesex County, Conn., in 1815. He early attended the academy connected with Hobart's College, Geneva, and after a full course at Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., graduated from that institution in 1834. He next entered the General Theological Seminary at New York, and at the end of three years was ordained as an Episcopal clergyman and became rector of St. Michael's Church, Litchfield, Conn. Here he remained for six years, after which he became assistant professor of Latin in Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., remaining in this position for several years. In 1848 he was called to St. George's Church in this city, where he has remained for an uninterrupted period of thirty-five years, retiring from active ministerial work in 1883. In 1859 he received the degree of D.D. from Hobart College, Geneva.

The Rev. John Philips Brooks Pendleton, S. T. B., has just entered upon the duties of the rectorship.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The early history of the Presbyterian Church in Schenectady is obscure. As late as 1756 there was no church in town except the Dutch. Before this date, however, settlers from England, Scotland and New England were drawn to this "frontier," by facilities offered for trading with the interior. Missionaries, chiefly for the Indians, had been sent into these parts by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, early in the eighteenth century. There was a chapel in the fort which was built in 1735, and was probably used by different denominations for worship. Concerning the church building in which the Presbyterians worshiped, now St. George's Episcopal Church, a tradition existed that Presbyterians subscribed to its erection with the understanding that it should be used in common by both denominations. Between 1760 and 1770 the Episcopalians and Presbyterians "agreed to build a church between them, The former to Go in at the west door, the Later at the South Door. When the church was Finesht John Brown, belonging to the English church, went to New York and got it consecrated under the Bishop unknown to the Presbyterians. The Presbyterians Highlie offended at this, purchest a lot, collected money in various places to Build a church. The Dutch inhabitants, seeing how they were served, advanst Liberal in money, Boards, planks, Nails, Hinges & paint. The church was built about the year 1770." (Kelley.)

It is not unlikely that such Presbyterian missionaries as had penetrated to Albany had also visited this region, but there was no settled minister before 1770, though for some time prior to this date the Presbyterians worshiped stately in a hired "meeting-house."

On the 12th October, 1769, a lot was purchased from Peter De Bois for £100, and work seems to have begun at once in earnest, as almost immediately follows: "To 2 Gallons West^d Rum when cutting the timber for the church 11s.;" the next item being, "To cash paid to Phinn & Ellice for rum and sugar when rideing timber £4 9s. 4d.; and Aug., 1771, To tickets bought at New Castle Lottery £4 16s."

The site of the old meeting house cannot now be ascertained, nor can we learn concerning it more than that it was furnished with a bell. It was still in use 22d March, 1773.

By the end of '73 the edifice seems to have been completed, and the bell in the new steeple, with its leaden ball adorned with "6 bookes of gold leaf," no doubt called the congregation to a joyful service of dedication.

The church and lot are credited with an expenditure of about \$1,800. The carpenter's work was done by Samuel Fuller and John Hall. The church had a gallery, and on the ground floor, 21 wall and 22 "Boddy" pews, and the carpenters agreed "to do the work on the Pulpit In the Same manner as In the English Church only it is to Joyn the wall So as to have no piller for a Soport & to make the Clark's Seat."

Of the size and strength of the congregation there is no record until much later; but in 1768 they felt able to compete with their brethren in Albany; for a letter of Mr. Brown to Sir Wm. Johnson at this time, in urging the necessity of securing Mr. Murray for St. George's, says: "We are the more Anxiously Solicitous on this Head as the Presbyterians are busee to get Mr. Bay among them"—this Mr. Bay being called about this time to the Presbyterian Church at Albany. The first minister who is known to have preached to the congregation stately is the Rev. Alexander Miller.

Mr. Miller was a pupil of Rev. James Findley, a graduate of Princeton College, in 1764; a student of theology under Dr. Rodgers, of New York; was licensed 1767, and ordained by the Presbytery of New York 1770, the date of his settlement here.

He also preached at Currie's Bush and Remsen's Bush in connection with his charge here, and taught a very respectable grammar school during the Revolutionary War, "in which Governor Tichenor of Vermont and others, since celebrated, acted as assistants."

During the war the church seems to have suffered greatly. The congregation was in arrears for salary to Mr. Miller at the time his successor, Mr. John Young, was called, about the middle of 1787, and probably about six years after Mr. Miller closed his labors as pastor of the church.

Mr. Young was ordained June 14, 1788, and gave one-third of his time to Currie's Bush, or Princetown.

The congregation at this time, and for years later, was composed of elements which did not mix very kindly, formalism contending stubbornly against the growing evangelical spirit in the church, and Mr. Young was dismissed in consequence of the dissensions, non-payment of salary and ill health. The former pastor was still seeking payment of its indebtedness to him, and the church at Currie's Bush had applied to the Presbytery for two-thirds of Mr. Young's time, on the ground that the church in Schenectady was no longer able to support him.

From 1791 to 1795, among those preaching here occasionally were Rev. Messrs. Baldwin, Chapman, Coe, Cook, Davenport, Dod, Dun, Judd, McDonald, Pomeroy, Schenck, Thompson and Williams.

With the election of the Rev. John B. Smith to the presidency of the college, a brighter day dawned for the church. Dr. Smith did much to reorganize the church, ordaining four elders in 1795 or 1796, viz.: Alexander Kelly, John Taylor, Alexander Walmsley and John McAtyre.

On the 13th September, 1796, the Rev. Robert Smith, of Pennsylvania, a graduate of Princeton, was installed over the church, which at this time numbered only 37 communicants. There were, however, about 85 pew holders, and the income of the church from pews and subscriptions was a little over \$700.

Mr. Smith remained until July, 1801, when, the severity of the climate having impaired his health, he sought refuge in Savannah, Ga., dying soon after

his removal. His life was sacrificed to his zeal and affection for his people. Under his ministry the church received 51 additional members. The township of Schenectady at this time contained about 3,500 inhabitants, 683 being electors and 381 slaves.

During the illness of Mr. Smith the Rev. Mr. Adair and Dr. Jonathan Edwards, Jr., second president of the college, frequently supplied the pulpit, and as collections for 1801 show an increase over previous records, and additions to the church are also recorded, the impetus given by Mr. Smith's pastorate would seem not to have been arrested.

In March, 1802, three elders and seventy-three others petitioned Presbytery for the speedy installment of the Rev. William Clarkson; twenty petitioners, including two elders, however, pray that the installation may not take place. Mr. Clarkson's settlement was the signal for war among the discordant elements in the congregation, and shortly after such serious charges were preferred against him as that he did not "preach" but read sermons, "contrary to Luke 4:16-23, where our Lord preached, said preaching being without notes." Mr. Clarkson was also charged with saying, "We never had such preaching here before; we had nothing but like the reading of an almanack," and the Presbytery failing to see the heinousness of Mr. Clarkson's homiletical shortcomings, a temporary secession of twenty-four families took place. Although considerable accessions to the church took place during Mr. Clarkson's brief pastorate, his opponents claimed that the communicants had diminished one-third.

During this unhappy contention, in which Mr. Clarkson was rather the occasion than the cause of the quarrel, an election for elders had occurred, which seemed to intensify the strife, and in September, 1803, Mr. Clarkson sought peace in departure. In the succeeding December the Rev. John B. Romeyn, a son of Dr. Romeyn of the Reformed Dutch Church, and founder of Union College, was settled over the church, at a salary of \$625. But the church was at strife, and in November, 1804, Mr. Romeyn also left. The number of communicants at this time could not have been much above a hundred; the highest rental for pews was but \$35, and the support of the church and pastor in the midst of such difficulties was very doubtful and precarious. Mr. Nathaniel Todd, ordained December 11, 1805, was dismissed in the succeeding November, on the ground that the congregation were unable to support him.

For some time the church depended upon temporary supplies, but, as if still further to confuse and complicate matters, the ear of the congregation was taken by an Irishman of the Methodist Church, a lay preacher, Mr. John Joyce. In spite of the peril of a threatened schism if Mr. Joyce were not settled over the church, Presbytery declined to intrust the church to his care, and declared it expedient for the session to resign, that new elders might in the interest of harmony be elected. The new session consisted of Messrs.

Kelly, Walmsley, Daniel Chandler and Prof. Henry Davis, afterward President of Middlebury, and still later of Hamilton College.

Notwithstanding its want of a pastor, and its internal differences, the church does not seem to have lost any confidence in itself, for on the 3d of July, 1809, the corner-stone of a new edifice was laid, the old building on the site of the chapel being taken down, and the congregation worshipping for a time in the college chapel.

We introduce here an impression of the old church seal, believing that it represents the form of the original church structure.



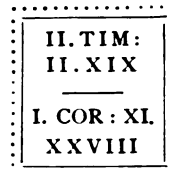
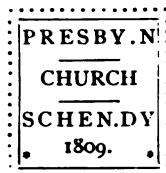
No doubt a large part of the strength and impulse of the new church movement came from the college. Dr. Nott, from his accession to the Presidency in 1804, had been a warm friend, and to his kindness, as well as that of Dr. McAuley and other members of the faculty, it was probably in large measure owing that the church came through its crisis with so little loss of strength.

Meantime, the Rev. Alexander Monteith had been called to the pastorate, and on August 29, 1809, he was settled over the church, remaining its pastor until his death, January 29, 1815. During his ministry there was an increase in its collections, the communion roll was enlarged by 62 additions, and the pastor's salary was advanced from \$700 to \$1,000.

Mr. Monteith's successor was the Rev. Hooper Cummings, whose eloquence covered not a few of his own sins and other men's sermons. Eccentric and unfortunate, to speak mildly, Mr. Cummings' brief pastorate, judged by statistics, was most successful. Installed 22d November, 1815, and dismissed 18th February, 1817, sixty-five persons were added to the communion roll, and work among the colored people prosecuted with vigor and success, Presbytery having authorized Messrs. Wisner and Davis, then members of the church in Union College, to catechise and exhort among them.

During Mr. Cummings' ministry, however, old strifes broke out again, and it was not till the 8th of June, 1820, that another pastor could be secured, changes having occurred in the session, and some withdrawing from the church, which in the interval enjoyed the services of Drs. Nott and McAuley. In April, 1820, the famous Mr. Nettleton preached, and the church seems to have enjoyed spiritual prosperity, not less than 120 being added to the church during the year. "Tokens" at the communion were still in use, not being dispensed with till March, 1821, when members of other Evangelical churches were welcomed to the Lord's table. The "Token" was intended to

prevent any unknown person or member under discipline from coming to the Lord's table. Tokens were distributed by the elders before communion to all who were in good standing, and were taken up by the elders again from the communicants at the table. They were made of lead, or pewter, were about an inch square, having inscriptions on each side, like these samples :



Besides these changes, during Mr. (Walter) Monteith's pastorate (1820 to 1826), the old psalm book (Rouse) was relinquished, which indicates that a decided change was taking place in the sentiment of the church. In Mr. Monteith's time also the old "Session House" was built by subscription, and not without much opposition from those who did not favor Sabbath-schools, prayer meetings and other "new-fangled ideas." The Sunday-school had been started by Mr. Jonathan Crane, an elder in the church, in the basement kitchen of his own house, as a Mission Union School in 1817; but in 1824 it divided into two church schools, one Dutch, the other Presbyterian, which found a home in the Session House, though viewed with suspicion, if not with dislike, by many who regarded it as "a school for outcasts."

Mr. Monteith's successor was the Rev. Erskine Mason, a son of the celebrated Dr. John M. Mason, whom in intellectual strength he in no small degree resembled. A scholarly and finished preacher, the three years of his service here were years of strength and blessing to the church, which received during his brief pastorate an addition of 89 members, 306 being the total number of communicants reported to Presbytery in 1830.

From July, 1830, until December, the church seems to have depended for service upon various ministers, when the Rev. Wm. James, a brilliant but somewhat eccentric preacher, became its "Stated Supply," declining, however, in 1832, the call to become the pastor, and ceasing to preach in the spring of the same year, for the Rev. James W. Henry appears to have supplied the church in April and May.

The day of rapid changes and shifting pastorates was soon to end, for the pulpit having been supplied by the Rev. Jonathan Trumbull Backus, May 27, 1832, a call was extended to him, and on the 6th of December following he was ordained and installed over the church, remaining its pastor until the 18th of June, 1873. During all this long pastorate, under the blessing of God, the church steadily grew and strengthened; old differences died out; larger ideas of the privilege of Christian benevolence obtained; more efficient methods of work were adopted, and the usefulness of the church greatly increased. During his ministry Dr. Backus re-

ceived over 1,000 persons to the communion of the church and a new era of benevolence entered upon, the aggregate of the reported benevolence during this period being over \$160,000. The church edifice was enlarged in 1834, and again in 1859; and the old "Session House" in 1843 gave way to the chapel, to which was added in 1857 the session room. This church was rebuilt and enlarged in 1884, and is a unique, beautiful, commodious and convenient structure. During this century more than 60 of its members have entered the Christian ministry.

The Rev. Timothy G. Darling, the present pastor, succeeded Rev. Dr. Backus, June 18, 1873. For three years he had been assistant pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Md. He was born at Nassau, N. P., Bahamas, October 5, 1842; graduated from Williams College in 1864; Union Theological Seminary in 1869; and was Instructor of Metaphysics from 1877 to 1880, in Union College. There has been a continuance of prosperity in the church under his pastorate.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

A little more than a hundred years ago an officer in the British army, listening to Mr. Wesley, in Bristol, England, was led to embrace Christ as his Saviour. Soon after he identified himself with the Methodists and became a co-laborer with Mr. Wesley, who licensed him as a local preacher.

Not long after, Captain Thomas Webb was sent from England to New York State on military duty and stationed at Albany, where he continued to preach Christ to his fellow soldiers and to all whom he could gain access.

About the beginning of the year 1767 he visited this city, and was probably the first Methodist preacher who came here. In a building standing, at that time, on the east side of Church street, near Union, used for bolting flour, this soldier of the cross preached the word with considerable success. It was strange and novel to see a military officer, arrayed in the habiliments of his office, with his sword by his side or lying on the table before him, assuming the functions of the sacred office. Many went to hear him out of mere curiosity. Some opened their hearts to the Saviour and were made happy in his love. Among the first converts were Nicholas Van Patten, Giles Brower, Rachael Barhydt, and the wife of Giles Van Vorst; also a colored man and woman who were slaves. The first converts were accustomed to meet together after the departure of Webb for religious services, but were much opposed by those who could not appreciate their feelings and were unacquainted with their religious enjoyments. Because of their peculiarly deep piety and zealous devotion they were called, in derision, "New Lights."

The second Methodist preacher, as far as we can learn, was the famous George Whitfield, in the year 1770, when he was making his last tour in America. Enthusiastic crowds, composed of all grades and conditions of society, flocked to hear

him, but we have no positive knowledge as to the general effects of his preaching here.

Benjamin Akin was the first local preacher residing here. He began to preach in January, 1807, in the house of Richard Clute, on Green street, and quite a number were soon converted, who were really the founders of the Methodist Society here.

The conference year ending in May, 1807, Andrew McKean, the preacher in charge of the Albany Circuit, occasionally visited this little band,

and organized the same year the first Methodist Episcopal church in Schenectady. At the meeting of the conference in 1807, Schenectady Circuit was formed, and Samuel Howe appointed to preach once in four weeks. Services were continued in Richard Clute's dwelling until autumn, when they were removed to a small house in Liberty street, where they were continued during the winter and following spring, quite a number being added to the church.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

In the spring of 1808 Seth Crowell was appointed to this place and preached in a building on State street, kindly furnished by its owner, Dorsey Joyce. Under his preaching the little flock "were edified and encouraged." In the following year two preachers were appointed to the Schenectady Circuit, which embraced the surrounding country, viz.: Truman Bishop and Datus Ensign. During this year a house of worship was erected and dedicated, and, though a rude structure, was used by the society for twenty-six years. It was situated on the northeast corner of Liberty and Canal streets, where the Canal now runs. As soon as inclosed, and before the walls were put on, and when the seats consisted merely of loose boards placed on blocks, it was occupied, and it remained in this condition for several years, when it was completed and rendered quite commodious. It was afterward removed to the northwest, to make way for the canal, and placed with its front on Union street, remaining here until this lot was needed for the railroad.

In 1810 the preachers appointed to this circuit were Isaac B. Smith and Hugh Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong was soon removed to another field, and Cyprian H. Gridley was sent to take his place. The church flourished much under the labors of these two devout and godly men. They were succeeded in 1811 by Henry Stead and Samuel Mer-

win, the former a practical, animated and useful preacher, the latter one of the able and efficient men of his times. Mr. Stead was returned the next year with John Finnegan, a sociable, agreeable but eccentric man, as his associate.

Smith Arnold and John B. Matthias were appointed in 1813. They were said to be, like Stephen, "full of faith and the Holy Ghost." They were followed the next spring by John Kline and Samuel Eighmey, men zealous and earnest in their Master's work. In 1815 three preachers were appointed to this circuit, E. P. Jacobs, Eli Bartlett and James Young. It is said that B. English preached here also about this time.

Thus far in its history the society appears to have been quite feeble, and made great exertions to maintain its existence. The men who served it endured great privations and hardships, "counting not their lives dear unto themselves," that they might win souls to Christ and nurture the flock to which they were appointed overseers.

In 1816 the society ceased to be connected with the circuit and became a station, under the pastoral charge of Laban Clark. The number of members at this time was about fifty. Mr. Clark is said to have been a man of gentlemanly bearing, courteous, affable, kind, and of a contemplative, serene and tranquil mind, and was highly esteemed by all classes of citizens as a man

and as a preacher. Under his administration Methodism arose in influence, and attained a much higher position than at any previous time. Two years afterward he was succeeded by William Thatcher. His two years' ministry marked an important era in the history of the church. A powerful revival during his first winter extended its influence throughout the whole community, and added much material and spiritual strength to the church. The successor of Mr. Thatcher was Samuel Luckey, afterward Dr. Luckey, who was pastor in Rochester in 1860. He commenced his labors here in 1820, and remained two years. Mr. Luckey was esteemed by all who knew him, and his influence gave special character to the church. He was succeeded by James M. Smith. Mr. Smith excelled as a doctrinal preacher, and his clear and skillful presentation of what the Methodists really believed, overcame much of the opposition heretofore shown by those who considered their teachings unscriptural. The church prospered under his ministry.

In the year 1824 Daniel Brayton was appointed to this charge, an excellent man and a good preacher. During his ministry the church suffered somewhat from adverse influences, but the band of believers were not disheartened. They trusted in God, pressed forward, and soon rejoiced in returning prosperity.

George Coles assumed the pastoral care in 1826. He afterward became editor-in-chief of the *Christian Advocate and Journal*. Mr. Coles was a preacher of ability and attractiveness. It is related that at one of his meetings, seeing one of his brothers in the congregation locked in unconscious slumbers, he suddenly paused in his discourse and cried out, "Brother G.! wake up, wake up! I have something important for you to hear." Brother G.'s slumbers were effectually broken for that occasion, and this incident made an impression on his mind not easily obliterated. At the next prayer meeting he seemed to have a vivid recollection of it, and in his prayer he prayed fervently that the Lord would baptize the preacher and help him to preach so that his hearers would not go to sleep, to which prayer the preacher responded with a loud amen, he, doubtless, feeling that it would require a supernatural influence to keep some hearers awake.

Next in order came Buel Goodsell, who was appointed in 1828. His influence was most salutary, effecting a very essential improvement in the character of the charge. He did much to modify the extravagance which characterized the religious exercises of some of its members; and he brought about a beneficial change in this regard, although he was violently opposed and accused of want of piety on his part.

Mr. Goodsell was succeeded by Coles Carpenter. Dr. Luckey said of him: "He was one of the most truly eloquent men I ever heard." The church was blessed under his faithful and eloquent ministry for two years, and he had the confidence and esteem of the community generally. He was followed by Salmon Stebbins in 1832. The prevalence of the

cholera spread general gloom over the city this year. This turned the attention of many to the concerns of religion, and a goodly number were converted and united with the church.

In 1833 James B. Houghtailing entered upon this field of pastoral labor, and remained two years. During this time the old church and lot were sold, arrangements made for building the edifice on Liberty street—now used for the Catholic Church—and the foundation laid with appropriate ceremonies. The superstructure was completed under the pastorate of Truman Seymour, who commenced his ministry in 1835. The dedication took place the next spring, Rev. John Kennedy, D.D., of New York, preaching the sermon.

This same year the society was favored with the services of Noah Levings, the odor of whose name is like ointment poured forth. The church membership at this time was one hundred and ninety-five, and over one hundred were added during his two years' labor. Union College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He was followed in 1838 by Epharim Goss, whose labors were attended by an extensive revival. Stephen Remington was the next pastor, for two years, and was succeeded by John Harwood, a mighty man in prayer.

The next pastor was Andrew Witherspoon, afterward Dr. Witherspoon, an able minister, who built up the church in sound doctrine and piety. James Rawson was appointed in 1845. A goodly number were converted during the ministry of this refined and cultured preacher. His administration was followed by that of John Frazer, for two years, when Allen Steel became the incumbent, a popular preacher who drew large congregations. In the spring of 1850, Barnes M. Hall was appointed preacher. He was a strong preacher, of dignified bearing, and commanded universal respect. About seventy were added to the membership during his two years' connection with the church. In 1852 the pastoral oversight was given to Henry L. Starks, a faithful preacher and pastor, who was followed in 1854 by Merritt Bates, during whose term the church edifice was considerably repaired. In the spring of 1856, J. K. Cheesman was transferred from the Genesee Conference and appointed to this charge. He succeeded in removing the heavy debt which had greatly embarrassed the church for many years, and received into the church more than a hundred probationers. He was succeeded by Samuel McKean, son of Andrew McKean, the preacher in charge of the Albany Circuit, in 1807. In the spring of 1860 Henry L. Starks was reappointed to the pastorate, as was also J. K. Cheesman in 1862. In 1864 Andrew J. Jutkins assumed the pastorate, remaining three years, the ministerial term being extended one year. His ministry largely increased the permanent congregations, and presented to the society the necessity of building a larger edifice. Mr. Jutkins succeeded in raising subscriptions to the amount of \$8,000 for this purpose. During his term the pastor's salary was raised from \$1,000 to \$1,200. Frederick Widmer, appointed in 1867, maintained all the interests of

the church, and elevated the cause of Methodism. Rev. Joel Eaton was appointed in 1869, and remained three years, and was very efficient in aiding the church building enterprise. The site had been purchased on the corner of State and Lafayette streets for \$6,000. The foundation of the building was laid in the summer of 1870, and the cornerstone in June, 1871, the Rev. Samuel Meredith, Presiding Elder of the Albany District, delivering the address, Rev. Dr. Backus, of the Presbyterian Church, offering the prayer. The church walls were erected and the building enclosed during this year. The chapel was completed, dedicated and occupied for public services in December, 1872. Daniel W. Gates succeeded in the pastorate. During his term the old church edifice was sold to the St. John's Catholic Church for \$10,000, the old bell being reserved, and the main edifice of the new church finished and dedicated in March, 1874. The Rev. Ira G. Bidwell, D.D., of Boston, Mass., preached the sermon, and the Rev. B. I. Ives, of Auburn, N. Y., managed the finances. The church, with its furnishings, cost about \$85,000, and the remaining debt of \$30,000 was fully pledged on this occasion.

George J. Brown was, by request, appointed pastor in 1875, and sustained a successful and affectionate ministry for two years. He was succeeded by William J. Heath, for three years. All the interests of the church were maintained, and a large number of valuable members added. William H. Hughes followed him with wise and successful management, especially with respect to finances. He was a good and able preacher, and affectionate and zealous in the conduct of society meetings, and faithfully served all the interests of the church, one hundred and fifty probationers uniting during his three years' incumbency.

The present incumbent, George A. Barrett, assumed the pastorate in 1883, and has well and faithfully sustained all the responsible duties of the church.

The present full membership is 620, and 30 probationers.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Fifty years ago, when the population of the city of Schenectady was about 4,000, the religious wants of the people were administered to by four churches—the First Reformed Dutch, St. George's Episcopal, the First Presbyterian and the Methodist.

Some time about the beginning of October, 1821, a number of Baptist brethren residing in the community agreed to meet on Wednesday evenings for the purpose of prayer and Christian conference. In the beginning of 1822 they were encouraged to institute Sabbath-day meetings. Soon after they began to hope that a church might be established here, and at a meeting held the 9th of October, 1822, a paper was drawn up stating that it was the belief of the subscribers that a Baptist church here would be profitable to Zion, and expressive of their wishes to be constituted into a church. At a meeting held November 8th, it was voted that a council

be called to organize a church. The council met November 21, 1822, the following churches being represented by their delegates: Churches at Clifton Park, Waterford, Burnt Hills, Florida, Duanesburgh, First of Albany and the Colored Church.

The following ministers took part: Abijah Peck, John Lamb, Lewis Leonard, Mr. Paul, Joseph Cornell, J. Olmstead, Mr. St. John and Egenia Kincade, afterward the distinguished missionary. The council unanimously advised the brethren to organize a church, which was done, and it was duly recognized by the council as the First Baptist Church, Schenectady, N. Y. The sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. St. John. Rev. Joseph Cornell made the prayer and gave the right hand of fellowship to the church. Twelve brethren and twenty-four sisters comprised the thirty-six original members, principally from the Baptist Church in Clifton Park. Meetings were held for some time in private houses, afterward in a building on the southeast corner of Church and State streets, also in a school building on Church one door north of State street, and in the Court House in the building now occupied by Union School, where they continued until the basement of the church edifice was ready for use. The church, though for some time without a pastor, grew considerably, for in June, 1823, it reported to the Shaftsbury Association forty-five members. In August of this year, Rev. Nathan N. Whitney, a pastor of a Dutch Church in this vicinity, having been led by prayerful study to embrace Baptist views, offered himself to the church for membership and was baptized by Elder Peck, of Clifton Park, in the presence of many members of his former charge. Invited to take the oversight of the church, he was ordained as its pastor October 22, 1823. This year Lewis Cheeseman was licensed to preach the gospel by the church. On the 17th of April, 1824, the church secured a lot for a "burying ground." The records this year report a membership of seventy-one. This same year the Sunday-school was organized. In 1825 the Rev. John Cooper was called to the pastorate at a salary of \$150; the lot where the old church stood in Center street was purchased for \$150, and the foundation of the edifice laid in the fall, though the building was not occupied by the society until 1828. The following December, Rev. Richmond Taggart was called and entered upon his pastorate at the beginning of 1830, and continued until May, 1831, when, because of the inability of the church to support him, he resigned. At this time the church was much discouraged, because of their inability to provide for the payment of a pressing debt upon the "Meeting House," and were also unable to provide for preaching. Abram D. Gillette supplied the pulpit for three months during the summer, and was ordained as its pastor September 28th, and the church entered upon a season of prosperity that continued during the ministry of this esteemed brother. In 1832 the church was dismissed from the Shaftsbury Association and united with the Hudson River Association. This same year side galleries were put in the "Meeting House," and in 1834 it was enlarged to double its former capacity;

seven young men were in various colleges preparing for the ministry, and its membership reached 242.

On the 20th of May, 1835, Rev. J. M. Graves was called to the pastorate, and resigned, after some difficulty, in 1836. The debt on the church was \$2,400. In October, 1836, Rev. Philander D. Gillette commenced his labors as pastor. The church was blessed with a revival, which added 42 to its membership. Elder Gillette closed his labors in March, 1838.

While the church was without a pastor, there occurred one of the most powerful revivals of religion with which Schenectady was ever favored. Elder Jacob Knapp commenced holding protracted meetings about the 1st of June, 1838, which continued far into the summer. He preached his first sermon in the Baptist Church, which was soon found to be too small, and on invitation of the Presbyterians the services were afterward held in their house of worship. So great did the religious interest become, that stores were closed and the citizens generally attended the meetings. The weather being warm in the evening, the voice of prayer was heard from the dwellings of the people throughout all parts of the city. This church being without a pastor, the larger part of the converts joined the other churches. Rev. Dr. Backus, then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, says of this revival: "Elder Knapp's preaching was apparently very effective in awakening the people to serious thoughts. * * * * It was a season of blessing, and the labor of the evangelist is held in grateful remembrance." In October the Rev. Conant Sawyer began his pastorate, and remained until July, 1840. During this period the church enjoyed great prosperity, the membership reaching 300.

In June, 1840, nine brethren and twenty-two sisters were dismissed, to constitute a new church in the village of Scotia. The church was without a pastor for some little time, when Mr. Leroy was called and ordained as pastor, December 1, 1841. In 1840 a powerful revival of religion was enjoyed, the pastor being assisted by Elder Kingsley.

The Rev. Wm. Arthur (father of President Arthur) was called August 4, 1844, and remained until September, 1846, notwithstanding the church at this time, by the removal of some of its wealthier members, was feeling heavily the burden of its indebtedness, and was hardly able to give a pastor an adequate support.

At the beginning of the year 1847 the present incumbent, Rev. Horace G. Day, accepted the duties of the pastorate. The church was then environed with many difficulties. His ordination took place on the 25th of May. At this time the debts of the church exceeded the value of its entire property. Their meeting-house was undesirably located, because of its proximity to the railroad. There was a long-pending litigation with the railroad for damages to the church property from the disturbance of religious services by the ringing of bells and the blowing of steam whistles on the Sabbath. In 1849 the membership was reduced

to 163 by removals and excisions. From this time began to dawn a brighter condition. In 1848 the house of worship in Center street was disposed of, and the meetings were held in the Young Men's Association Hall in the Van Horn building, where they continued within a few months of the completion of the Lecture Room of the present church edifice. In the meantime meetings were held in private houses and also in the old Cameronian Church building in Center street, now occupied by Carley Brothers as a flour and feed store. Such was the burden of indebtedness at this time that some favored disbanding the church and reorganizing as a new society as the readiest way of freeing themselves from debt, but the majority refused to repudiate. The claims against the society were finally settled in an honorable manner, through the liberality of creditors and individual citizens, and the church proceeded to effect measures for the building of a house of worship. The Lecture Room was formally opened January 23, 1883, the pastor preaching the opening sermon, and Rev. Dr. Hickok, of Union College, preaching in the afternoon. From this time forward the church grew steadily for some years. For the first time in many years, at the close of 1855 the church was out of debt and money in its treasury. The main church edifice was finished in 1856, and dedicated the same year, President Nott, of Union College, making the dedicatory prayer. The cost of the edifice and lot was about \$12,000.

With the year 1858 commenced one of the most powerful revivals with which the church has been favored. Special revival services were held until the 23d of April, and the revival continued in connection with the regular services of the church far into the summer, adding to the membership of the church 127. Among the converts were about 40 young men. The Rev. David Heagle and the Rev. Norman Fox, Jr., both of them at that time licentiates, were the efficient helpers of the pastor. The baptistry was put into the church this year, and used for the first time March 7th. In the summer of 1870 the house of worship was thoroughly repaired, frescoed and refurnished, at a cost of about \$4,000.

During six weeks, services were held in Union Hall. Revivals have been characteristic of this church, and it has been signally honored in being permitted to license many candidates for the ministry who have been successful preachers of the Gospel. Among them we mention Rev. Geo. W. Eaton, late President of Madison University; Emerson Andrews, the evangelist; S. B. Willis, Alanson Baley, J. S. Webber, D. D. Gregory, H. F. Cochrane, David Heagle, Everett R. Sawyer. In 1856 the church ordained Henry L. Simpson, a colored brother, who was said to be the first of his race to take a full course of study at Madison University. In 1866 it ordained Abril Parmater to serve as chaplain in the army. The total number of persons received into the church is 1,048 by baptism and 562 by letters. The present membership is 297.

THE SECOND REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH.

The Second Reformed Church was organized in October, 1851. The importance and necessity of a Second Reformed Dutch Church had been felt and discussed by members of the First Church for several years prior to 1851. At one time a subscription was started and \$4,000 was subscribed to start the enterprise, but nothing was done. At a meeting of the consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church held in December, 1850, it was resolved to call a meeting of the great consistory to consider the propriety of organizing a new Reformed Dutch Church in the city. Two meetings of the great consistory were held and the subject of a new church thoroughly discussed, and with only one dissenting voice it was

"Resolved, That a Second Reformed Dutch Church in this city is both expedient and necessary."

A committee was appointed to raise \$500 to make the experiment. Though nothing was immediately accomplished, the idea was not abandoned, and in July, 1851, it was decided to call a public meeting of all those favorable to the object. The meeting was held in the lecture room of the First Reformed Dutch Church; a large number were present. A communication from Rev. Wm. J. R. Taylor, pastor of the First Church, was read, in favor of the project, and outlining a plan. It was made the basis of action. In the communication referred to, the Rev. Taylor says: "The action of the great consistory last winter has settled the question of the expediency and necessity of the new Reformed Dutch Church. This is a point gained." "What creates the necessity?" "The want of room in the churches for the people of the city." "There are 300 families in First Reformed Dutch Church and only 150 pews; many of these are occupied by two families and at great inconvenience. We have lost valuable families on this account." Further it says: "Something must be done. Begin a prayer meeting and a Sabbath-school immediately. Arrange for a temporary place of worship. Get the pastor on the ground and go to work as soon as possible." After the reading of the pastor's letter, measures were adopted to carry out his ideas. A prayer meeting was held, a Sabbath-school organized in the public school-house on White street. At the meeting of Classis in September a petition was presented, signed by twenty-nine heads of families, asking for the organization of the new church. The request was granted, arrangements made for the organization, supplies for the pulpit arranged until next meeting of the Classis in April.

The first consistory was elected October 30, 1851, and the church organized with 14 members, 11 from the First Reformed Dutch Church, 2 from the Reformed Dutch Church of Cohoes, and one from the Presbyterian Church of Schenectady. On the 16th of November, 1851, the services of organization were held in the First Reformed Dutch Church. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Wm. J. R. Taylor, pastor of the church. An address to the new church was delivered by Rev. Gojne Talmage,

of Niskayuna. November 23, 1851, the first service was held in the old Cameronian church on Center street. Rev. N. D. Williamson, of Scotia, officiated.

November 16, 1852, Rev. I. G. Duryea was installed pastor of the church. In 1854 the lot for the church was purchased, and immediately the work of raising funds to build a church was begun. July 4, 1855, the corner-stone of the present church was laid; in September, 1856, it was completed. The church prospered greatly under Mr. Duryea's pastorate until the spring of 1858, when his health failed and he took a brief vacation, the church agreeing to supply the pulpit in his absence. The Rev. Artemus Dean was engaged as a supply. Many of the members preferred his preaching to that of Mr. Duryea, and began to organize a large following favorable to the dismissal of the pastor and the calling of Mr. Dean. Mr. Duryea returned in August. A majority of the consistory favored his resignation. He was prevailed upon to offer it, which, after much ill feeling in the congregation, was accepted. Then an effort was made to settle Mr. Dean as pastor; this was opposed by some and Classis rejected the call. The Dean party, having a majority in the consistory and possession of the church, finally declared themselves independent of Classis, and proceeded to install Mr. Dean and change the organization to a Congregational church. This was done in 1859.

Those who remained loyal to the Reformed Dutch Church began a suit for possession of the church. The case was tried before the late Judge Ira Harris, of Albany, as referee; the late Judge Paige counsel for the loyal party, and the late William A. Beach counsel for the Dean party. The case was not concluded until September, 1861, when Judge Harris decided that the Dean party had no right to the church, but must yield the property up to the loyal party.

In July, 1862, Rev. A. DuBois, D. D., was settled as pastor. In 1866 the large debt against the church was paid off. In 1868 the chapel was erected. Rev. DuBois resigned in September, 1869. February, 1870, Rev. Wm. H. Phraner was settled as pastor. The membership under Mr. DuBois had increased from 60 to 113. Under Mr. Phraner's care the membership increased to 200. Mr. Phraner's health failed in 1870, and he resigned the pastorate.

In the fall of 1875 the church made a call of Rev. H. H. Northrop. The Classis refused to accept Mr. Northrop. A large portion of the congregation, who were in favor of Mr. Northrop, left the church on account of the action of Classis. The church was badly broken up, but soon rallied again, so as to continue the Sabbath-school and ordinary church services. In June, 1876, Rev. J. N. Crocker was called, and served the church faithfully until May, 1878, although he was never installed. The church prospered greatly under his care. In September, 1878, Rev. E. C. Lawrence was installed as pastor. He resigned September 1, 1880. Rev. Peter E. Kipp, the present pastor, was settled in April, 1881. The church has greatly prospered under his pas-

torate, the membership at present being 290. The church is centrally located; has a good, convenient lecture room adjoining; a good house for a parsonage, the gift of the late Rev. A. J. Swits, within a few rods of the church. Its success has proved the wisdom and foresight of the Rev. Wm. I. R. Taylor and the men of the First Reformed Dutch Church, who so earnestly labored to establish the second church of the denomination in this ancient city.

P. E. Kipp was born in Paterson, N. J., in 1847, and graduated from the New York University in 1867, and New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1870. He was located in Fishkill from 1870 to 1874; Brooklyn, 1876 to 1880; and became pastor of the Second Reformed Dutch Church, Schenectady, in 1881.

CHRIST CHURCH.

This church was the outgrowth of a Sunday-school Mission, started by a few Christian ladies of St. George's Episcopal Church about 1865.

It was first incorporated as Christ Church, September 23, 1867. The corner-stone of a wooden edifice, much smaller than the present building, was laid during this year by Rev. Dr. Payne, rector of St. George's, assisted by Rt. Rev. D. Randell, Bishop of Colorado. This church was first opened for services March 1, 1868. The first rector was Rev. F. C. Wainright, who remained till the year 1871, when he was succeeded, April 1 of that year, by Rev. Lucius N. Voigt.

During Mr. Voigt's pastorate the vestry room was enlarged 11 by 8 feet, and the number of communicants increased from 18 to 91. The value of the church property was estimated at \$5,000.

Mr. Voigt resigned June 1, 1874, and for one year from this date the church was without a regular rector. Dr. Lowell, of Union College, officiated during this interval. Rev. John M. Rogers was elected to the vacant rectorship June 1, 1875. Under his administration the church began to flourish, and in 1876 the building was enlarged to its present size. The vestry room was increased to double its former seating capacity; a new chancel, 12 by 14 feet, was built, a steeple erected, the grounds improved, and the entire church decorated and improved, at a cost of nearly \$1,800.

Mr. Rogers resigned August 10, 1880, and was succeeded a few months later by Rev. J. Lewis Parks, who continued as rector till his resignation in June, 1883.

The present rector, Rev. Eugene L. Toy, succeeded Mr. Parks in August, 1883. Under Mr. Toy's ministrations the church has continued to increase in numbers and in influence.

There are at present 151 communicants, an increase of 17 over preceding year. There is a Sunday-school connected with the church of 171 pupils and 20 teachers.

The size of the main body of the church is 22 by 55 feet; the number of seats 180, furnishing seating capacity for about 500 persons. The value

of the church property is estimated at \$10,500, upon which there is a mortgage of \$6,200.

The present officers of the church are the following: Wardens, James E. Curtis and David Guy; Vestrymen, Samuel T. Benedict, William N. Butler, H. C. Van Zandt, M. D., John K. Elwin, E. E. Kreigsman, William W. Craig, David O. Youlen and Prof. Sidney G. Ashmore.

ST. JOSEPH'S GERMAN R. C. CHURCH.

Rev. Father Theodore Noethen, from Albany, and other secular priests, visited the German Catholics of the city before any organization was made, and held services for them in St. John's Church. On January 23, 1859, about 75 members met in Gottfried Blum's marble shop and resolved to build a church, which should be called St. Peter's Church. At the head of this movement stood Gottfried Blum and Xavier Zeiser as presidents, Peter Baldus, Mathias Treis and Peter Selzinger as trustees, Franz Tele as secretary, Julius Meyers as treasurer. At another meeting, on the 6th of February, in Meyer's molder shop, Fonda street, Peter and Karl Baldus, Jacob Garling and Jacob Stener were chosen collectors, to take up a house collection. February 20th the large lot corner of State and Albany streets, where now the Arsenal stands, was purchased from Mr. Ramsay, for \$2,000—\$100 paid down, the rest to be paid within five years. Quarrels and lack of money afterward made them lose this splendid location. After many fruitless attempts to get a church, the generous Bavarian, Joseph Harreker, bought on sheriff's sale the old Cameronian frame church, on Center street, for \$2,000, in his own name. To this was built a new sanctuary, for \$300. This church, named after its founder and benefactor, St. Joseph's Church, was dedicated the 29th of June, 1862, by the Rev. Alphonse Zoeller, O. M. C., of Utica. The Franciscan Fathers, from Utica, as Revs. Leopold, Oderic, Alphonse, Pius and others, held regular services in the new church. Father Oderic bought the cemetery on East avenue for \$300. Father Pius bought the small brick house on Franklin street, west of St. John's Church, for \$1,300, for the Sisters of St. Francis, who taught the children in a frame school-house built north of the church. After that, Fathers Leopold and Pius, who was the first residing pastor, bought the east corner lot of Albany and Lafayette streets, with brick house for parsonage, from John McEucroe, for \$4,750.

At the end of October, 1868, the Franciscan Fathers were called away, and Rev. Maurus Ramssauer, from Manlius Station, near Syracuse, was made pastor. Soon afterward the Franciscan Sisters were succeeded by a secular teacher. The double house north of the church on Center street was bought for \$3,500. The church incorporated April 16, 1869. At the end of April, 1876, Father Maurus resigned and went back to Manlius Station. His successor was Rev. J. Henry Cluever, D. D., from Deerfield Corners, near Utica. Through his energetic efforts the present beautiful church was

built. The corner-stone was laid Sunday afternoon, July 29, 1877, by Rev. Thomas Burke, of St. Joseph's, Albany, N. Y., with imposing ceremonies; the church was dedicated March 3, 1878, by Right Rev. Bishop Francis McNeirny, of Albany.

Architect, M. J. Cummings, of Troy, N. Y.; builder, Jacob Van Zandt, of Schenectady, N. Y. Cost, without furnaces, organ and altars, \$27,286.

December 14, 1881, Bishop McNeirny consecrated the new marble side altars.

In August, 1882, the double lot, with house, west of the old cemetery was bought for \$1,900, and added to the old insufficient burial place.

December 8, 1883, Rev. J. Herman Wibbe, from St. Peter's Church, Oswego, N. Y., succeeded Dr. Cluever, who took charge of St. Mary's Help of Christians, in Albany, N. Y.

In March, 1884, the new gothic high altar, built by Joseph Stoppelkamp, of St. Louis, Mo., for \$1,200, without statues, was put up, and new stations, donated by some members of the parish, at a cost of \$370, erected on the evening of Good Friday, the 11th of April, 1884.

Sunday afternoon, October 19, 1884, Bishop McNeirny solemnly blessed three new bells, bought from Clinton H. Meneely, Troy, N. Y., for \$1,105.72; the smallest, weighing 508 pounds, called "St. Jacobus," donated by Mr. Jacob Garling; the second, "Joseph Franciscus," weighing 1,023 pounds, donated by St. Joseph and St. Franciscus Aid Societies; the largest (1,993 pounds), "St. Maria," donated by members of the parish. The bells were first swung on the eve of All Saints Day (October 31st).

In the fall of 1884, the wooden annex of the Sisters' house was torn down and a large brick school-house erected, connecting the old school-house with the Sisters' house, and adding a new story to the latter, bringing the whole under one metal roof. The work was done by Mike Deckelmeyer for \$3,647, without the steam boiler. The school is in charge of five Sisters of St. Joseph, and is attended by over 200 children. The congregation has grown to over 400 families. With the church are connected five religious societies, with large membership, and a social club of the young men of the parish, the "Schenectady Eintracht," who meet twice a week in the basement of the school.

GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH.

This church was organized October 24, 1849, with the following members: August and Elizabeth Schwenker, Henry and Maria Strueme, Christian and Sophia Kasten, Frederick and Justine Danneberg.

The first church was erected on Jay street, on the site of the present Congregational Church, May, 1850, at a cost of \$1,500.

The first pastor was I. I. Grau, under whose pastorage the church grew in membership and influence.

Following is a list of pastors in the order of their ministration over this church: I. I. Grau, A. Schwartz, Sebastian Mickel, I. I. Grau, Jacob

Kindler, Henry Kastendirck, Casper Jost, Francis G. Graty, Christian Blinn, John Sauter, Christian F. Grimm, John C. Deininger, Casper Jost, George Abele, Paul Quattlander, Henry Kastendieck and F. H. Ray.

The present church on the corner of Union and Lafayette streets was erected in 1872. It is 53 x 82 feet, and has a seating capacity of 800 persons.

This church is in a most prosperous and healthy condition, with a full membership of 388, and 65 probationers. The average congregation numbers between 500 and 600. The Sunday-school connected with this church numbers 400 children, with an average attendance of 300.

The value of the church property, consisting of the church edifice and a parsonage on Park place, is estimated at \$38,000, against which there is a debt of but \$6,000.

THE EAST AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

On Tuesday evening, October 25, 1866, the first prayer meeting of this society was held, Dr. Backus, of the First Church, presiding. About fifteen persons were in attendance.

The meetings in the course of a few weeks became so largely attended, that the private house in which they were held was overcrowded. Accordingly the young men engaged in the work, with commendable enterprise rented a small dwelling in the vicinity and, having removed the partitions, fitted it up as a place of worship. This building was first used December 23, 1866, and from that date meetings were held there on Thursday and Sabbath evenings during the winter and following summer. A Sabbath-school was organized December 15th with five scholars. The second Sabbath it numbered twenty-one scholars and six teachers. February 3, 1867, an infant class was organized. The attendance upon the school and prayer meeting increased so greatly during the winter that the building was again found too small for the accommodation of those who came, and again the laborers recognized the finger of Providence pointing them forward. The idea of building a chapel was talked about, and funds were sought after and obtained, chiefly among the members of Dr. Backus' congregation, and the work was commenced July 23, 1877. October 10th the chapel was finished, and was soon dedicated, with appropriate services; Rev. Dr. Backus, Rev. Dr. Hickok and Rev. John Clancy officiating. The work continued to prosper, and through the influence of the Sabbath-school and prayer meeting, a number of persons were converted and united with the city churches. The Sunday-school, at present, is the largest and most efficient in the city.

During the winter a Sabbath evening preaching service was kept up regularly. In the spring of 1869 those who had been interested in the work from the beginning thought that circumstances warranted them in asking for a separate organization. The proposition was accepted by the pastor and people of the First Church, to whose cordial sympathy and co-operation the success of the undertak-

ing had been largely due. Accordingly sixteen persons were dismissed from the mother church, April 1, 1869, to form the new society. The following Sabbath, April 4th, after the sermon by Rev. Dr. Backus, from Heb. 13:17, the church was organized. From this time the pulpit was regularly supplied, morning and evening, by various ministers. The first stated supply was George Alexander, a licentiate of the U. P. Presbytery of Albany and a student of Princeton Seminary, who preached during the months of July and August. At a meeting of the congregation, August 4th, he was elected and called to the pastoral charge. Having accepted the call, he was ordained and installed January 20, 1870, and dismissed by Presbytery in 1884.

The church edifice is located on Upper State street. It is built of brick, with a Gothic roof, and has a seating capacity of 600. The present pastor, J. D. Paxton, has served since 1884.

THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Evangelical Congregational Church, Schenectady, N. Y., was unanimously recognized by a council of Congregational churches and pastors, April 24, 1877, convened by invitation of the pastor, officers and members of the Free Evangelical Church, an independent religious organization that had been holding religious services in Union Hall for sixteen months previous, under the ministrations of Rev. Henry H. Northrop.

The council was composed of the following pastors and delegates of these churches: Albany, Gloversville, Oswego, Syracuse, Middletown, Harlem, Homer, N. Y.; the Rev. J. C. Holbrook, D. D., secretary of the N. Y. S. Home Missionary Society; Rev. James G. Cordell; also Rev. H. G. Day, of the Baptist Church of Schenectady.

The public services took place in the evening of the same day in Union Hall, when the Moderator, Rev. J. C. Holbrook, D. D., officially recognized the church, welcoming it to the fellowship of the Congregational churches. An address on the Principles of Congregationalism was made by Rev. Jonathan Crane, of Middletown, N. Y. A sermon was preached by Rev. W. S. Smart, D. D., of Albany, and an address delivered by Rev. Samuel H. Virgin, pastor of Pilgrim Church, Harlem, N. Y.

The church continued to hold its public services in Union Hall and prayer meetings in the German M. E. Chapel, on Jay street. Rev. H. H. Northrop continued with the church until March, 1879, when he was regularly dismissed by council.

Rev. John H. Munsell was called to and accepted the pastorate in April, 1879. It soon became evident that Union Hall was not a suitable place to hold Sabbath services, and the same fall they were removed to the chapel on Jay street, in which the prayer meetings were held. Large congregations were accustomed to attend the services in the public hall, not more than half of which followed the church into the chapel to worship there. Soon after a revival of religion greatly blessed and encouraged the church, largely increasing its membership. The capacity of the chapel was soon

found to be too small to accommodate those who desired to worship with the church, and in the spring of 1880 active measures were instituted to secure a larger place of worship and a permanent church home, and the lot and buildings comprising the chapel and the adjoining dwelling house—now the church parsonage—were purchased and immediate measures taken to erect a suitable church edifice. After two years of patient toil, constant prayer, and unusual sacrifice, the church was permitted to dedicate its present beautiful edifice on Jay street, April 5, 1882, the Rev. Wm. M. Taylor, D. D., pastor of Broadway Tabernacle, New York, preaching the sermon.

The following year the adjoining chapel was erected. This church, with its accompaniments, is one of the most attractive and convenient church buildings in the city.

The church has steadily grown, comprising now 330 church members. Its Sunday-school numbers more than 300.

EMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH.

This church was organized in 1881 by a number of the former members of the First Baptist Church. At this time the members of the congregation had no church edifice, and used Union Hall in which to hold religious services. The first regular pastor was John C. Breaker, who became pastor April 10, 1882. In 1883 a lot on Nott terrace was purchased, and the present church edifice erected, at a cost of about \$3,500. Mr. Breaker remained as pastor of this church until October, 1884, when he resigned his charge. The congregation remained without a regular supply until June 17, 1885, when the present pastor, George M. Muller, accepted the pastorate. This congregation is composed of about 130 members, and is in a healthy financial condition.

JEWISH SYNAGOGUE.

This congregation was organized in 1856. At this time the store a few doors from State street on Ferry street was purchased for \$1,400, and is still used in which to conduct religious services. The officers of the Synagogue are president, vice-president, three trustees, treasurer and secretary. The first President was Alexander Susholz, who was succeeded by the present officer, Jonathan Susholz. The remaining officers are Jacob Henry, Vice-President; Phieffer Levi, Treasurer; S. Susholz, Secretary; Henry Heilbronner, S. Sterns and L. Behr, Trustees.

This congregation consists of 38 members, and is known by the corporate name Shara Schomajim. The present Rabbi is Rev. Rudolph Farber.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

The first Roman Catholic congregation was organized in this city in 1880 with less than 20 persons. At this time a small frame building near the Mohawk bridge on Washington avenue was neatly fitted up and used for church services. The congregation had no regular rector, but was occasionally attended by Rev. Charles Smith, of St.

Mary's Church, Albany. The building on Washington avenue continued to be used as a church until October 13, 1839, when the present commodious edifice on Franklin street was consecrated. Rev. John Kelly, who succeeded Rev. Charles Smith, was the first regular rector installed over this church. He was succeeded in 1838 by Rev. Patrick McCloskey. Then followed in succession Revs. Daniel Falvey, McGeough, M. E. Clark, and J. M. Scully, who was installed in 1875. In 1873 the building formerly used by the Methodist congregation on Liberty street, adjoining the rear of St. John's Church, was purchased by the latter church, and has since been converted into a convent.

The present rectory on Liberty street was built in 1876.

The property of this church is centrally located, and one of the most valuable belonging to any religious denomination in the city. A few years ago a tract of land containing over twenty acres, on the upper end of State street, was purchased by this church, and is now used as a cemetery. The total number of persons connected with St. John's Church will probably exceed 2,500.

ST. JOHN'S CONVENT.—May 22, 1865, the building opposite to St. John's Church, on Franklin street, was first opened as a convent, under the direct patronage of the church, and presided over by Mother Alphonsus and Sister Mary Montcarmel, who were reinforced the following months by Sisters Ann Michael and Mary Lucy. At the convent and the small school-house adjoining the church, the children of the congregation were taught the common English branches of study by the Mother Superior and Sisters.

But the number of scholars so increased year by year, that in 1880 the old Methodist Church on Liberty street, purchased in 1873, was converted into a convent. This large edifice has been most conveniently arranged for the purpose of a school and convent, and meets the needs of this rapidly growing congregation. At the new convent more than 460 scholars are instructed in the common English branches of study. This school is supported entirely by the church, and is under the charge of Mother Superior Augustine, assisted by five Sisters.

A private school for instruction in the higher branches of study is conducted at the convent, where French, music (vocal and instrumental), drawing, painting and embroidery are taught. This department of the school is attended by both Protestants and Catholics, and is supported by tuition fees. The instruction received at the convent is considered as most careful, thorough and complete, and ranks high in the educational interests of Schenectady.

GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

This church was organized in 1870. In 1872 the present church edifice was purchased from the Congregational Church for \$3,500, since which many improvements have been made on the church property. The first pastor was G. H. Brandan.

He was followed by Michael Wolf, Emil Schneider and Henry Homrighaus. The present pastor is Louis Schultze. This congregation is composed of 95 members, and is in a prosperous and flourishing condition.

"THE TEMPLE GEMEINDE" CHURCH.

The German church on College street, called "The Temple Gemeinde," is a branch of the German Temple Society, organized in Germany about 1854, by Rev. Dr. C. Hoffman, which aims at the advancement of the work of Christ and final establishment of the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. The only source of revelation to the members of the Society is exclusively the Bible, without ecclesiastical traditions and human doctrines, as far as they are in contradiction to the will of God as interpreted by the members of this Society. Concerning the Temple Gemeinde, we will give an extract of its history:

The congregation was organized in May, 1854, by the Rev. W. Wolf, and incorporated according to the law of the State of New York, under the long and inconvenient name, "Third Evangelical Protestant Reformed Dutch Church." At the end of the same year the present pastor, the Rev. W. F. Schwilk, took charge of the school and congregation, which increased remarkably in number. In 1856 they bought the so-called old Lancaster school and converted it into a chapel. A school-room was added in the rear of the building, and afterward used as a dwelling for the sexton and his family. As the little flock steadily increased, it was found necessary to erect a larger and more commodious house of worship—the same which stands a few rods farther from the old one, toward Green street, and which was dedicated in the presence of a highly interested assembly on September 1, 1867.

At the beginning of 1867, Mr. Schwilk started the first German newspaper in the city, *Die Reichs Posaune*, a religious, political and social semi-monthly, and continued it as editor and manager fully seven years, when he was obliged (on account of ill health) to suspend the paper. At the close of the year 1867 the congregation withdrew from the Classis of Schenectady, and declared itself, for various reasons, ecclesiastically free and independent of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church; yet its officers and members retained their first legal name, and endeavored to make it a living name by being Protestants, not only by birth, but also by conviction. Thus they made themselves worthy of a new name. In the meantime they felt the necessity of changing it more and more, and recently, at a special meeting of the pastor, elders and deacons, they resolved unanimously to drop the old name altogether and adopt a new and better one—"The Temple"—which expresses plainly and distinctly its common faith. They authorized their pastor to take all the legal steps necessary to that effect.

This name was legalized and took effect December 25, 1884. The Temple Gemeinde is composed of 200 members, with a Sunday-school numbering

80 scholars. The church property is valued at over \$8,000, and is free of debt. Rev. W. F. Schwilk, who has been pastor of this church more than thirty years, is a highly educated and accomplished gentleman, deeply interested in religious matters, and to his intelligent, conscientious work can be attributed the present prosperity of this church.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

THE LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, an organization which has accomplished great good in this community, was established about 1813.

In this society at this early date were many ladies of the first families of the city. In a book of minutes of this period appears the names of Mrs. James Duane, Mrs. Stebbins, Mrs. A. Yates, Mrs. Dr. Fonda, Mrs. Simon Groot, Mrs. Dr. Mynderse and Mrs. John Constable. In 1817 thirty-five sick and distressed women and 128 helpless children were assisted, necessitating the expenditure of more than \$600.

The primary objects of the society were to afford assistance to indigent women and children, although no cases of deserving charity were neglected.

The officers consisted of a first and second directress, treasurer, secretary, and a board of managers. The contribution of a certain sum to the funds of the society constituted the person so contributing a member, with equal privileges in managing the affairs. The board of managers appointed a certain number of ladies in each ward, in prescribed districts, who were expected not only to solicit funds, clothing or provisions for carrying on the work, but to make personal visits to the homes of all persons in these districts who might be in indigent circumstances, and report all cases of deserving charity to the board of managers, in which case the members of the board of managers were expected to afford relief. In many cases sick women and children were removed from their wretched homes to suitable quarters in private houses, the society paying for their board. It was this branch of the good work which ultimately grew to such proportions that the need of a building especially adapted to this purpose became a necessity.

The aims and plan of work of this society have not undergone much change since it was organized, and it will not be necessary to go into much detail concerning the work accomplished.

In 1864 this society was reorganized, and many of the members of that date are still active workers in this society. Among the members might be honorably mentioned the names of Mrs. Dr. Nott and Mrs. Jonas H. Crane, two of the oldest living members, who for more than a quarter of a century have been earnest workers in the cause of this society. Among others who are equally entitled to praise, both in the past and present, are the following ladies: Mrs. Anna Myers, Mrs. Mark Scherwin, Miss Rebecca Duane, Mrs. Dr. A. M. Vedder, Mrs. James Walker, Mrs. Judge Mitchel, Mrs.

Maria Barhydt, Mrs. Charles Angle, Mrs. Theodore Brown, Mrs. Aaron Freeman, Mrs. Elizabeth Walters, Mrs. Elizabeth De Wigne, Mrs. John C. Ellis, Mrs. D. Cady Smith, Mrs. Richard Franchot, Mrs. Andrew McMullen.

HOME OF THE FRIENDLESS.—The present comfortable and commodious building on Green street, known as the Home of the Friendless, was the result of the labors of the Ladies' Benevolent Society.

In 1868 the Ladies' Home of the Friendless Society was organized, mainly composed of the members of the Benevolent Society. At this time, although without a dollar in the treasury, and trusting entirely upon the generosity of the citizens to aid them, the ladies decided to purchase the building, No. 35 Green street, now owned by the society.

But legal difficulties confronted them, from the fact that they were not a corporate body. At this opportune time Dr. A. M. Vedder, Max Schwin, T. W. McCamus, Austin M. Ketchum, David Murray, Charles H. Mathews, Samuel W. Jackson, D. Cady Smith, Andrew Truax, Horace G. Day and Lewis C. Barhydt, under the provisions of a legislative act of 1848 relative to the incorporation of charitable institutions, associated themselves together and became a corporate body, August 4, 1868, under the corporate name of the Home of the Friendless of the City of Schenectady.

The following gentlemen were named as the first trustees: J. Trumbull Backus, Charles H. Mathews, Alexander M. Vedder, D. Cady Smith, Andrew Truax, Horace G. Day and Lewis C. Barhydt.

These trustees were given the entire charge and supervision of the funds, property and affairs of the association. They were at first divided into three classes, two who were elected for one year, two for two years and three for three years; but in 1881 the term of all the trustees was extended to three years, although the three classes remained the same, and the term of not more than three trustees expires during any one year.

The trustees elect a president, secretary and a treasurer; the latter officer cannot be a trustee. At the present time an executive committee of three is appointed by the President from the list of trustees for one year, to whom is given the general charge of all funds, property and affairs of the society, to audit all bills and to invest funds. The trustees are elected by ballot the first Tuesday in September of each year. Every person who shall donate the sum of five dollars to the funds of the society, regardless of sex, is entitled to one vote, and an additional vote for every five dollars donated.

The first trustees immediately purchased the dwelling, No. 35 Green street, of George G. Soley, for the sum of \$3,000, paying about \$2,000 in cash, raised by subscription; the balance remaining a mortgage upon the property. This property was thus given over to the management of the

Ladies' Society of the Home of the Friendless, and was first opened September 9, 1868.

The real management of the Home, the collection of funds, and the care and supervision of the inmates, devolve solely upon the ladies of the society. The officers consist of first and second directresses, treasurer and secretary, an executive committee and a board of managers. The trustees act as an advisory committee. The first officers were: Mrs. Urania Nott, First Directress; Mrs. Cordelia Crane, Second Directress; Mrs. Mary A. Myers, Secretary; Mrs. Anna Angle, Treasurer.

The subscription fee of annual members is \$5; of life members, \$25; of life members and benefactors, \$100.

The entire internal charge of the Home is under the direct supervision of a matron, who is employed by the Board. This position has been most creditably filled by Mrs. Mary Perkins ever since the Home was established.

Since the establishment of the Home, it has been used exclusively for the support of indigent sick or aged women. But it is the intention of the members, as soon as sufficient funds can be obtained, to so extend the facilities of the institution as to be able to support a juvenile department, when children without homes, too young to provide for themselves, can be maintained.

From the report of the secretary made at the end of the first year of the Home, we find that eight aged and infirm ladies had been the recipients of the comforts of this institution. The total receipts this year were \$1,945.40, and total expenditures \$1,327.85.

In September, 1873, the present building adjoining No. 35 Green street, used as the Home, was purchased of Mr. Frame for \$5,000.

In 1878, mainly through the efforts of the trustees, a debt of over \$3,000 was liquidated by public subscription. Dr. Andrew Truax, who had been an enthusiastic friend of the Home since its organization, gave \$1,000 of this sum.

During late years, the Home, by the death of a number of its early friends and benefactors, has been the recipient of generous donations. Among the legacies thus bequeathed were \$5,000 from Dr. A. M. Vedder, \$6,000 from Colon C. Clute, and \$20,000 from Dr. Andrew Truax. In 1869 the True Blues, a civic organization in Schenectady, donated the sum of \$1,000, the proceeds of a fair held for the purpose of aiding this institution.

At the present time the Home is in a flourishing condition. Its property, valued as \$10,000, is free from debt, and it receives the proceeds of \$33,500 invested for its use.

The work accomplished by this institution of charity has been of the most commendable nature. Its average yearly expenses have been about \$1,200, while an average number of eight poor, enfeebled, deserving women have received the comforts of a Christian home.

In 1883 an addition of a hospitable room was made to the Home at a cost of \$700, which amount was raised by public subscription.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

In the year 1858 the first Young Men's Christian Association was organized in Schenectady. The first officers of the Society were: Prof. John Newman, President; George F. Bollis, Vice-President; Charles S. Vedder, Corresponding Secretary; William F. Fox, Recording Secretary; and James J. Marlette, Treasurer. The Board of Directors consisted of Joseph B. Graham, David Herron, Jr., David J. Tichenor, Charles N. Yates, A. Craig Palmer, Charles Brockmyer, Daniel A. Atwell, Samuel Lyon, William DeGraff, Rembrandt P. Wilkie and Abraham Van Vranken. The plan of work and object of the association, as defined by the constitution of this date, were similar to that followed by like associations throughout the State, and not materially different from the aims and purpose of the present association. The society secured rooms on the second floor of the Clute building on State street, now used as a dental office by John F. Hull.



Young Men's Christian Association Building.

Here the members of the association labored for a number of years, with comparatively limited means and resources, for the beneficent objects of the association. But either through lack of proper support, through imperfect organization, or the usual period of excitement during the late civil war, the work was abandoned some time in 1863, and nothing was done to perfect a reorganization until 1867. During this year, by the exertion of a few of the public-spirited citizens of Schenectady, a renewed interest was awakened in the work of this kind of organization, as exhibited in parts of the State, and a new association was formed and a more perfect constitution adopted. The officers elected under the new organization were as follows: Nicholas Cain, President; C. C. Brown and M. A. Vedder, Vice-Presidents; E. A. Charlton, Corresponding Secretary; George O. Seaver, Recording Secretary; John Brown, Treasurer; and L. Hoyt, Librarian. Directors: Andrew T. Veeder, Jacob Vrooman, Louis Feldman, Richard Farley, C. W.

Backus, D. D. C. Teller, John A. De Remer, Edward S. Sauter and E. W. Moore. At this period the association had rooms in Van Horne's Hall, No. 151 State street. Here a free reading-room, furnished with the leading daily and weekly papers, magazines and various periodicals, was provided. A library of over 300 volumes was also procured this year.

In 1871 application was made to the Legislature for a new charter and for the incorporation of the association. This was granted, and the following citizens of Schenectady were a board of trustees, to hold in trust the property of the association: J. Trumbull Backus, Platt Potter, E. H. Wheeler, Simon C. Groot, Andrew Truax, Peter Rowe, Abram Doty, H. S. Edwards, C. C. Clute, N. I. Schermerhorn, Levi A. Young, H. S. Barney, T. W. McCamus, Nicholas Cain, Robert Furman, G. G. Maxon, C. H. Mathews and Edward W. Paige. This act of incorporation provided that one-third of these trustees should be annually elected after March, 1872. During the year 1871, mainly through the efforts of Nicholas Cain, then president of the association, and a few others equally interested in the welfare of the organization, the project long contemplated by the friends of the association—the erection of a permanent edifice—began to take definite form. In October of this year the lot where the Association building now stands was purchased for the sum of \$12,000, the entire amount being raised in a few days by subscription. At this time the task of raising money to erect a building upon this site was begun by the officers of the organization. The following are some of the principal donors at this time: Nicholas Cain, \$3,000; J. Trumbull Backus, \$2,000; Charles H. Mathews, \$1,500; Peter Rowe, \$1,000; Platt Potter, \$1,000; Abram Doty, \$1,000; L. A. Young, \$1,000; T. W. McCamus, \$1,000; Robert Furman, \$1,000; Andrew Truax, \$1,000; N. I. Schermerhorn, \$1,000; C. C. Clute, \$1,000; H. S. Edwards, \$1,000; E. H. Wheeler, \$1,000; H. S. Barney, \$1,000; Simon C. Groot, \$1,000. Considerable money was also raised in smaller amounts.

In 1873 the present building began to be erected. Its exterior was completed in 187—. At this time, the association lacking necessary funds, work was suspended. From 1873 to 1877 seems to have been a dark period in the history of the Young Men's Christian Association in this city.

Some time in 1874-5 the room in the Van Horne Hall was abandoned, and no regular place of meeting seems to have been provided until 1877, when, mainly through the efforts of General Secretary O. C. Morse, who came to Schenectady under the direction of the New York State Executive Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, Stanford Hall was rented for a period of three months. Here the association library was removed and a free reading-room provided.

In March, 1877, the work of completing and furnishing four rooms in the new building was undertaken by the different churches, the First Reformed Church furnishing one, the First

Presbyterian Church another, the Baptist a third, and the Episcopal Church the fourth. On the 15th of the following May the association took possession of its new rooms, and the new building was first used for the purpose for which it was erected. Since this date numerous improvements have been made in the Association building, although it is not yet entirely completed. Over \$40,000 has been expended on it, and the association is at present \$19,000 in debt. The lower part of the building is occupied by the crockery store of S. R. James, the second floor by the association, and the third floor by law offices. For a number of years a coffee or refreshment room has been in the unfinished part of the building, which has enjoyed a liberal share of patronage.

The present officers of the association are: James A. Goodrich, President; Marcus C. Wood, Vice-President; Frank E. Smith, Recording Secretary; James Cantine, Treasurer; William F. Cromer, Acting Secretary. The financial affairs of the Y. M. C. A. are controlled by a Board of Managers, consisting of twenty members.

The reading-room and library has been recently much improved. Many daily papers and most of the leading periodicals are furnished, while the library has increased to nearly two thousand volumes of choice and selected books. The Y. M. C. A. building, as shown in the cut, is one of the finest public edifices in the city.

HISTORY OF MASONIC ORGANIZATIONS.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, NO. 6.

St. George's Lodge was founded previous to the American Revolution by dispensation from the Grand Lodge of England, and went into operation in 1774, under the auspices of Sir John Johnson, then Provincial Grand Master of the Colony of New York. The first dispensation under which the lodge was organized has been lost; but a second one, granted by the same authority, is still preserved as a relic in the archives of the lodge. It was given at Fort Johnson, December 13, 1774, and bears the bold signature of Sir John Johnson. By this instrument, Christopher Yates was appointed Master; Benjamin Hilton, Jr., Senior Warden; and John Henghan, Junior Warden.

The book of minutes of the lodge as above constituted, but extending from a time even previous to this dispensation, is still preserved. From this it appears that in addition to the officers mentioned, the lodge had but four members, viz.: Cornelius Van Dyck, Aaron Van Patten, Robert Clinch and Robert Alexander. The first initiation of which there is any account is that of Teunise Swart, which was speedily followed by others, until when this record closes, December 30, 1799, more than one hundred and twenty names had been added to the roll of membership.

From the book of minutes, it appears that the first meetings of the lodge were held at the house of Robert Clinch, afterward in the dwellings of Abram Truax and John A. Bradt. April 16, 1790, the lodge purchased a building and lot of Dr. Nich-

olas Van Der Volgen on the south side of State street, where the Central Railroad now passes, and after properly arranging a room for the use of the lodge, surrendered the remaining part to Andrew Rynex, as Tiler, by whom the dwelling was thereafter occupied. In January, 1797, the growing numbers of the lodge rendered this place too small, and it was considerably enlarged by building. In the same year a Mark Lodge was established, to which the use of the lodge room was freely permitted.

At this time there were in Schenectady three flourishing lodges and a Royal Arch Chapter. They were named respectively, St. George's Lodge, Clinton Lodge and Morton Lodge. St. George's Lodge has alone survived. Cyrus Royal Arch Chapter, No. 57, which existed about this period, has also been disbanded, but in its place has been organized the Mohawk (now St. George's Royal Arch Chapter, No. 157), which now numbers many members.

The record of the proceedings of the early history of St. George's Lodge is full of interest, illustrating the character of the men and times of the most interesting period of our country's history. Among the members of the lodge were many who became active in the war of the revolution, and whose names have been frequently mentioned in this volume as connected with the stirring events of this period.

The following, taken from the book of minutes, is full of significance, and is one of many having reference to the active participation of the members of this lodge in the scenes of the revolution:

"At the regular communication, December 26, 1780, it was unanimously

"*Resolved*, That fifty shillings, hard money, out of the funds of this lodge, shall be delivered into the hands of Brother Robert Alexander, for the use of Brother Walter Voorman's family, who is now captive with the enemy, and the same amount be paid into the hands of John Cummins, for the use of Brother Andrew Rynex's family, who is also taken captive."

The last record contained in this venerable minute book is especially interesting. It is as follows:

"*Whereas*, The death of our Worthy Grand Master, George Washington, was this evening announced to this lodge; therefore, unanimously

"*Resolved*, That the members of this lodge wear (as a token of respect to the memory of our said late Grand Master) a black ribbon in the button-hole of the waistcoat, until the ensuing Festival of St. John the Baptist, and that the Secretary be directed to give notice of the foregoing resolution to such members as did not attend this meeting.

"JELLIS A. FONDA,
"W. Master."

Thus appropriately closes this valuable record of the last meeting of the last year of the last century.

The minutes of the lodge are preserved in full until the close of the year 1804, when there seems to have been a disagreement between a large number of the lodges in the interior and those in the

city of New York and its vicinity, which resulted in a disruption of the ties between them. In common with the lodges with which it had sided in the questions in dispute, which seem to have been little more than "Where shall the meetings of the Grand Lodge be held—in New York or Albany?" St. George's Lodge was declared by the Grand Lodge to have forfeited "its Masonic privileges," and its members were expelled from the order.

From this time the records are imperfect, until 1822, when the lodge was formally reinstated to full Masonic standing, and a new charter granted to Henry Yates as Worshipful Master; Samuel Farnsworth, Senior Warden; and John McMichael, Junior Warden. This charter bore the signature of Daniel D. Tompkins, then Vice-President of the United States, as Grand Master.

From this time to 1834 the records, and even the charter of 1822, are lost, and it would seem that the meetings were either entirely intermitted or but seldom held. This period was that dark one in the history of Masonry in America which followed the Morgan excitement, when most of the lodges in the State were broken up and the order proscribed.

From 1834, however, complete sets of the minutes are preserved, from which it appears that a dispensation was granted by the Grand Lodge, bearing date January 5, 1844, and that on the eighth day of June, 1844, a new charter was granted, naming Giles F. Yates as Worshipful Master; Roswell Perry, Senior Warden; and Jonathan C. Burnham, Junior Warden. Under this charter St. George's Lodge now works, and is to-day in a very prosperous and flourishing condition. In 1868 the temple on Church street was erected, making one of the finest and most complete Masonic buildings in the State.

OFFICERS FOR 1885.—Bro. T. Low Barhydt, Master; Bro. John S. White, S. Warden; Bro. P. M. Doty, J. Warden; W. Bro. W. Scott Hunter, Treasurer; Bro. Thompson Dealtry, Secretary; Bro. Charles E. Palmer, S. Deacon; Bro. Frank Williamson, J. Deacon; Bro. Rev. E. L. Toy, Chaplain; R. W. Bro. John Keyes Paige, Organist; Bro. Charles Hausmer, Physician; Bro. G. A. Wendell, S. M. of Cer.; Bro. E. King, J. M. of Cer.; Bros. J. Teller Schoolcraft and John S. Swits, Stewards; Bro. S. Abrams, Tiler; G. G. Maxon, S. W. Jackson and John M. Wendell, Trustees.

NEW HOPE LODGE, No. 730.—New Hope Lodge was founded November 30, 1872. For a number of years meetings of this lodge were held in Van Horne's Hall, on State street; recent years, Odd-fellows Hall, in the Ellis building, on State street, has been used for that purpose.

OFFICERS FOR 1875.—W. Bro. Charles Baum, Master; H. M. Stanton, S. Warden; W. C. Campbell, J. Warden; W. H. Helmer, Treasurer; James L. Foote, Secretary; W. P. Daley, S. Deacon; Wm. J. Rosekranz, J. Deacon; D. W. Walpole, S. M. of Cer.; Simon Schermerhorn, J. M. of Cer.; G. E. McDonald, M. D., Physician;

Fred. Reaber, Marshal ; E. E. Kreigsman, R. T. Butler and D. Allen, Finance Committee ; R. T. Butler, Tiler.

ST. GEORGE'S CHAPTER, No. 157, R. A. M., was installed in 1856. Officers for 1885 : M. E. Comp. John H. White, High Priest ; W. Scott Hunter, E. King ; T. Low Barhydt, E. Scribe ; W. H. Peckham, Treasurer ; W. G. Helmer, Secretary.

ST. GEORGE'S COMMANDERY, No. 37, K. T., was instituted 1866. Officers for 1885 : E. Sir W. H. Helmer, Commander ; George Buskerk, Generalissimo ; John H. White, Captain-General ; F. Williamson, Prelate ; Geo. Weller, S. Warden ; John J. Fenwick, J. Warden ; H. H. Swart, Treasurer ; W. H. Peckham, Recorder.

TEMPERANCE.

The earliest trace of united temperance work in Schenectady is that of the State Temperance Society, organized in 1828 by E. C. Delavan and Dr. Eliphalet Nott. July 8, 1830, an auxiliary society, the "Schenectady City Society for the Promotion of Temperance," was formed. The pledge did not cover the use of malt liquors, but "distilled spirituous liquors, except as a medicine in case of bodily infirmity." The officers were: President, Peter I. Clute; Secretary, James Magoffin; Treasurer, Joel C. Bailey; Directors, Jonathan Crane, George McQueen, Jabez Ward and Obed Chandler. The Reverends E. Mason (Presbyterian), Coles Carpenter (M. E.), Jacob Van Vechten (First Reformed), and Mr. Gillett (Baptist), and Dr. Nott and Mr. Delavan, were also members. By 1832, through the efforts of Mr. Crane and others, 27 auxiliary societies (which included one colored) had been formed. Union College also organized one at this time. During the year last named the city society had a membership of 2,013 males, 421 females. Lectures were occasionally delivered by Prof. Alonzo Potter, Dr. Nott, Reverends Stebbins, Gillett, Van Vechten and Hon. A. L. Linn, and Messrs. Pollard and Wright, of Baltimore, John B. Gough, and Judge McQueen. Dr. Fonda and Dr. Nott were the last survivors of this organization. Its efforts practically ceased in 1846.

The Washingtonian movement gained a foothold and flourished for a few years during the existence of the city society.

From 1847 to 1867 but little public work was done, but in the latter year the "Sons of Temperance" instituted a division, which is now extinct. In 1868 the Good Templars organized their first lodge here, which did good work until 1880, when it too became practically lifeless.

The Independent Order of Rechabites never gained a foothold here. The Father Mathew movement of 1850, which was originated by the Catholics, succeeded in gaining many converts.

In September, 1876, the "Schenectady Temperance Society" was formed, with the following officers: President, J. Charles Lawton; Vice-President, Dr. L. Faust; Secretary, Henry Swan; Treasurer, Peter Chrisler. Articles for the press were

written by Prof. Wells, of Union College; Prof. Halsey, Classical Institute; Revs. W. J. Heath and Northrop and Mr. Chrisler. October 19th a Reform Club was organized, and the 31st of the month was merged with the "Schenectady Temperance Society," and these changed to the "Ancient City Temperance Society."

In June, 1880, Peter Chrisler was successful in having the official board of the M. E. Church adopt a resolution discontinuing the use of fermented or alcoholic wine at the communion, and during the same year he organized the "M. E. Church Temperance Society."

July 11, 1878, internal dissensions in the "Ancient City" order resulted in a new society, taking the old name, "Schenectady Temperance Society," with Mr. Chrisler as President.

October 31, 1878, the two societies united, under the name of "Christian Temperance Union," with Jethro W. Chute as President.

The "Women's Christian Temperance Union" was organized in March, 1878, Mrs. Dr. Nott, President, and in July the "Children's Temperance Society" was instituted, all the societies meeting in the same room.

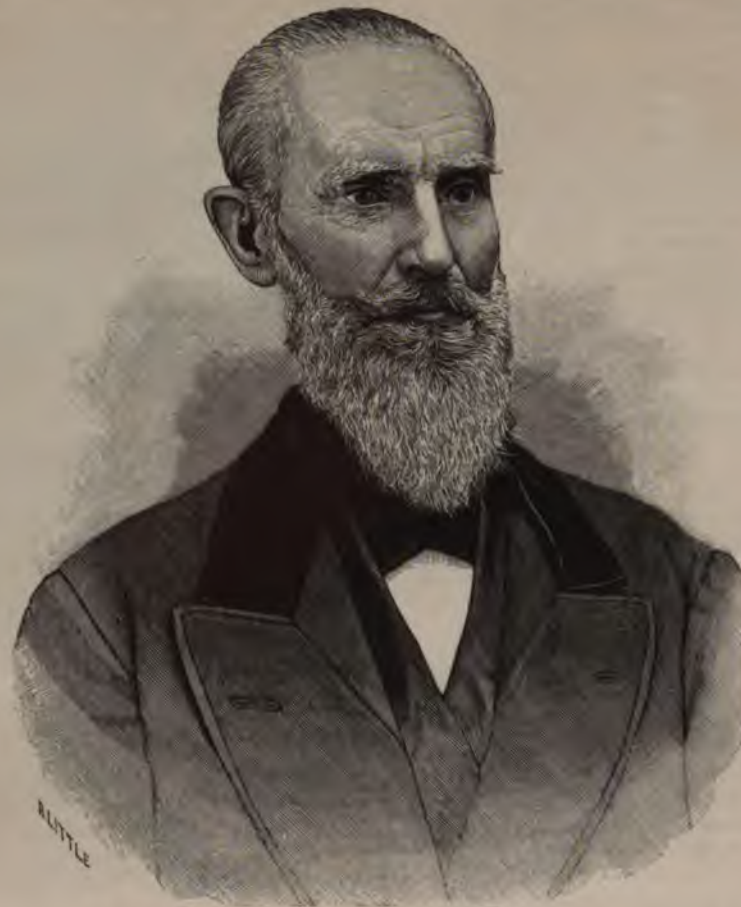
January 29, 1880, a new departure was taken by the society. Good Templarism ideas were followed, and "Ancient City Lodge, 174," formed. No organization since 1830 or 1867 has been so successful. In March, 1884, there were 1,130 members, making it the banner lodge of the State. At the County Lodge, held April 1, 1885, it reported 895 members.

HENRY RAMSAY.

The subject of this sketch was born in Guilderland, Albany County, N. Y., May 18, 1808. He spent the first six years of his life in the vicinity of his birthplace, after which his parents removed to Albany. At this early age he entered the first Lancaster School in the United States, then recently opened in Albany by William Anderson Tweed Dale, under the personal supervision of Joseph Lancaster, the founder of the system.

In 1823, with three others, he was promoted to the Albany Academy, a high mark of honor conferred on pupils of the Lancaster School who had shown themselves specially meritorious in behavior and scholarship, and which entitled them to a free course of instruction at the Academy. Young Ramsay rapidly advanced in his studies, and by orderly conduct and close attention gained the esteem and confidence of the Faculty and Trustees, who, as a signal mark of favor, informed him, after a term of two years, that he could remain as long as he pleased, free of tuition. But the painful necessity of depending for support upon the daily labor of an aged father, constrained the youth to leave the Academy in 1826.

He immediately became an assistant teacher in the Lancaster School, under his former instructor, Mr. Dale. In this position he remained nearly a year, performing his work most satisfactorily to the management of the school and its patrons. But



Henry Ramsay

the care and labor proved too severe for mind and body, and he was obliged to seek rest and recreation in the country. Becoming sufficiently recuperated, the following year he accepted the charge of a school in Glenville, Schenectady County, and the same year he returned to Albany and accepted the appointment of book-keeper in French Webster's hardware store, located on the site of the present post-office.

This position did not meet the ambition of the young man, and he determined to seek future advancement in the great city of New York. Here he arrived in 1829, without money and without friends, not knowing a single person to whom he might apply for aid and assistance. He encountered all the discouragements and difficulties so many deserving young men similarly placed have experienced in securing employment in the metropolis. For a short time Benjamin C. Watson gave shelter and assistance to our young friend, and secured for him a position as clerk in the land

office of Isaac M. Woolley, at the small salary of \$10 per month and board.

While a student at the Albany Academy, young Ramsay became very proficient in penmanship and map-drawing, and gained valuable knowledge of the art of surveying. These various accomplishments served him most advantageously while in the employ of Mr. Woolley, who was quick to utilize the talents of his young clerk in drawing and copying maps as needed in the transaction of the business of his office. So well did young Ramsay execute this work, that maps drawn by him and exhibited in the real estate sale-rooms of the old Merchants' Exchange attracted general attention for their excellence. Among those who were attracted by the ability of Mr. Woolley's clerk, were John C. Morrison, Dr. Van Soligen and Mr. Parker, author of "Parker's Arithmetic," who induced young Ramsay to open an office, under promise of immediate patronage. Accordingly in 1830 he opened an office in an attic bedroom in Greenwich

street. His ability soon gained for him the friendship and patronage of influential citizens. Philologus Holley, who proved a most valuable friend at this period, in return for such services as he could render him, gave him office room in his office in Carmine street. While at Holley's he became acquainted with John Lewis, the confidential clerk of the celebrated Col. Aaron Burr, and by the latter he was frequently employed in making surveys, maps and plans of buildings.

Reuben Spencer, a city surveyor, at this time occasionally employed young Ramsay to assist him in making surveys "on the Island," and in return allowed him to use his instruments when he could find a job for himself.

This soon brought him into prominence, which resulted in his securing a lucrative business, and in bringing his sterling worth into public recognition. During this period he met Miss Isabelle Westervelt, eldest daughter of Jacob Westervelt, then Sheriff of New York County, whom he married May 17, 1831, and soon accepted the appointment of book-keeper in the Merchants' Exchange Bank, but shortly after became deputy sheriff under his father-in-law, which position he retained under the latter's successor, John Hillyer; and after an interval of two of Hillyer's successors, was appointed to the position again, under his wife's uncle, John J. V. Westervelt.

In 1836, Mr. Ramsay, by prudence and economy, had amassed sufficient means to gratify his desire for the quietude of country life, and accordingly removed to Schenectady in this year, purchasing fourteen acres of land, including his present homestead at the head of State street. At this time there were but two small frame buildings upon the property, which, at the present, has become one of the most eligible building sites in the city, upon which have been erected more than eighty buildings, including the State Armory. After making some improvements on his property, Mr. Ramsay again returned to New York to accept a situation offered by his brother. Here he remained for nearly four years, returning to Schenectady in 1839.

At this time Mr. Ramsay resolved to permanently adopt the profession of surveyor and engineer, for which his early training and experience peculiarly fitted him. In 1842 he received the appointment of chief engineer on the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad between Albany and Schenectady. At this time, the expenses of operating the two stationary powers at the heads of the inclined planes at the two cities nearly exhausted the receipts of the road, and rendered the construction of new sections to supersede the inclined planes absolutely necessary. This difficult work was Mr. Ramsay's maiden professional effort, and was accomplished without a single adverse occurrence or the interruption of a single train. He was made assistant engineer of the Erie Canal enlargement, his section extending from Little Falls to the tower aqueduct. While engaged in this work, he was appointed Resident Engineer of the Seneca River Survey and Triangulations, from the Monte-

zuma Marshes to the foot of Jack's Reef. His administration of this office was so satisfactory, that, December 10, 1853, he was appointed, without solicitation, State Engineer and Surveyor.

In 1853, he was chosen by the Board of State Officers to locate the wharf or water-line of Newtown Creek and East River. In 1844-5-6, he was engaged by Eugene and Montgomery Livingston in defining the subdivision of the great Hardenburg Patents, which he accomplished with much difficulty and danger during the "anti-rent" craze in Ulster and Delaware Counties. Mr. Ramsay has held the position of City Surveyor by appointment for several terms, though he has never taken an active interest in politics, and in 1852 he received the Democratic nomination for Mayor of the city, which, for private reasons, was declined, although equivalent to an election. After the close of his State service, Mr. Ramsay received the appointment of Chief Engineer of the United States Petroleum Company, at Pithole, Venango County, Penn., and on Duck Creek, Ohio, driving the first stake in the oil enterprise on the Thomas Holmden farm. He remained, making surveys during the oil excitement in this remarkable region, until he terminated his professional services in 1866-7.

In 1867, he began preparations to carry out a long cherished plan, which, he says, "had been the dream of my youth and hope of my age—to visit Europe, Egypt, Palestine and Syria," hoping thus not only to gain needed recreation and rest, but more especially to satisfy the natural craving of his mind to visit places and scenes associated with ancient Biblical lore. On May 1, 1869, he sailed for Scotland, and at Glasgow began a tour of the wonderful places of the Old World, which, as described in his graphic and intelligent language, would fill a volume of valuable and instructive material for the students of ancient history.

Most of the time consumed by Mr. Ramsay's journey abroad was spent in Egypt and the Holy Land. Here his devout nature was inspired and filled with reverence, as he visited and trod over places and scenes made sacred and ever to be revered as associated with the lives of the early patriarchs, and as connected with the life and history of our Savior. Only those personally acquainted with this venerable gentleman, and who have heard him relate with a remarkably intelligent comprehension, aided by a most retentive memory, can fully realize how thorough was his research in this interesting portion of the world.

Since his return home he has frequently been called upon to deliver lectures upon the subject of his travels, and whenever he has complied has been highly appreciated.

Up to this period of Mr. Ramsay's biography we have given but the mere outlines, without much comment, of the chief events of his remarkably successful and active life. His struggles and successes as a poor boy, without assistance, family prestige, or influential friends, furnish an example of what pluck, brains and honesty can do on the great stage of life, and is an incentive to every young man

struggling with adverse fortune. His success was not the result of what the world calls "good luck." He went to the city of New York at an early period to be sure, but even then there was no place in this country where competition was stronger, and where any young man without influential personal friends would be less sure of winning success, except upon true and proved merit. Here young Ramsay, by application, hard work, perseverance and honesty, won not only the nucleus of a comfortable fortune, but, what is better still, the sincere respect and esteem of all who knew him. Mr. Ramsay early became attached to a Christian church and through a long career has been active in promoting all matters pertaining to church work, and by action and deeds has led a consistent Christian life.

Mr. Ramsay's domestic relations have been of the most pleasant nature. His wife, who shared the trials and struggles of his early days and witnessed the successes and triumphs of his later years, still remains his congenial partner in his declining years. Ten children have been the result of their union, nine of whom are still living. Mr. Ramsay has always felt much indebted to the Albany Academy, and considers that the instruction there received had much to do with his success in life. In 1883, out of friendship, if not as a debt of gratitude, he endowed this institution of learning with the sum of \$1,000, to be used for the permanent establishment of the Henry Ramsay Scholarship, to aid poor and deserving young men to obtain an education.

Mr. Ramsay has ever been a progressive, public-spirited citizen, and has taken a keen and active interest in everything pertaining to educational matters. He himself has been a careful, painstaking student of history, men and passing events, and now, in his seventy-eighth year, enjoys good health and a high degree of intellectual vigor. In this city, his adopted home, where he is best known, he is justly honored for his sterling worth and integrity of character, and is quietly enjoying the remaining years of a well-earned repose, surrounded by family, kindred and friends.

EDUCATIONAL.—OLD MASTERS.

"Full well they laughed, with counterfeited glee,
At all his jokes, for many a joke had he;
Full well the busy whisper circling round
Conveyed the dismal tidings when he frowned."

GOLDSMITH'S "Deserted Village."

Chronologically arranged, and as accurately as is now possible, the early school-teachers of Schenectady are given below. These all, as will be seen, ante-date any organized State school system. Education in the things taught from books in those days was of minor importance. The school-master was a curious combination of ignorance and of a little learning. Oftener than not to his profession he joined one of the homely but useful trades, generally cobbling. Sobriety was considered commendable, but it was no noteworthy thing for the "master" to indulge all too freely

during his hours of freedom from the school-room. Physical propulsion, conveyed by the impressive whip, was thought a wise way of inducing into the mind of the young scholar a proper understanding of his studies; though, even then, there were some eccentric fathers who surmised that the best road to a boy's brain was not to be found at the sharpest end of a whip.

The first school was opened here by Peter Tassermaker, the first pastor of the First Dutch Church, who was killed by the Indians when Schenectady was burned in 1690.

In 1725, Peter Feeling, the grandfather of Mrs. John Clark, was teaching here.

The following is a copy of the oldest school-bill extant in Schenectady:

Mr. Jno. R. Schermerhorn to Thos. Nielson,				
Dr.		£	s.	d.
Schooling 2 children from ye 17th April,				
1738, to ye 21 November, being 7				
months.....	1	8	7	
Schooling 2 children from ye 21st				
April, 1739, to ye last December,				
Being 8 mo.....	1	13	4	
2 Psalters.....		5	0	
		£3	6	11
Abatement for ye children Being at Home				
at Harvest.....			6	11
		Due....	£3	0 0

SCHENECTADY, ye mo. March, 1739-40.

There appeared before me, Nicholas Schuyler, Esq., one of his Majestie's Justices of ye Peace for ye County of Albany, ye above Thomas Neilson, and made oath on ye Holy evangelist of Almighty God, that ye above acct. according to the Best of his Knowledge is a Just and Fair account Jurat Corma made.

THOS. NEILSON.

NICH. SCHUYLER.

On the reverse side of which is:

Recd. from Mr. R. Schermerhorn, three pounds, New York Currency, Being the full Contents of the Acct. on the other side, and is in full of Debts, Accts. and Demands Whatsoever to this 24th March, 1739-40.

I say recd. by me,

THOS. NEILSON.

Witnesseth:

ANNA WENDOL.

£3 0 0.

In 1755, Caleb Beck; in 1757, William Johnson, the "dominie;" and from 1759 to 1763, Hendrick Hausen, were schoolmasters; and by a bill dated 7th April, 1762, we learn that Mr. Matthew Lyne was then master, and for the years 1760-4-5-6 bills were also rendered by him: "1 year, £2 2s.," and "1 yr. 9 mo., £3 3s." In 1766 Richard Oliver was teacher, and from 1765 to 1768 Andrie Johnson received from 2 to 4 shillings per month for his services. From an account rendered by Peter Sparling to Ryer

Schermerhorn, and paid 13th March, 1767, it appears that Mr. Schermerhorn paid for "6½ months day and 5 months night school, at 16s. per quarter," the sum of £3 os. 4d. for his son John; that "syphering" cost the same amount per quarter; and that to his other qualifications Master Sparling added that of a spinner, receiving 2s. a pound for "spinning 11 lb." In 1769, George Passage, "shoemaker and schoolmaster," was paid 2s. 6d. per week for his services as teacher. In 1770 Hendrick Hausen is again master, and in the same year George Passage renders a long account, amounting to £15 10s. 8d. to Reyer Schermerhorn, for mending and making shoes, boots and pumps, for instructing "his son Bartholomew in the cordwaning trade." In 1771 William Andrews, who was a catechist among the Mohawk Indians and missionary, and first rector of St. George's Church, opened a grammar school. In 1772-3 "William Johnson was shoemaker and schoolmaster." Patrons of the school needed a little urging to pay their school-bills, as the following will show, though, as has already appeared, the receiver of this polite request had not been remiss with previous bills:

"Mr. Schermerhorn, Sir: When I broke up school at New Ark, this spring, I sent my acct. by your son Richard, the amount of which was £5 2s. 8d. As I have heard nothing from you since, should be glad if you would order the payment of it in New York, either to Mr. Cobham, at the great Dock, or Mr. Quakenbush, or where else it may suit you, and please to advise me of the same by a Letter directed to William Haddon, Elizabeth Town, and you will oblige, Sir,

Your very h'ble serv't,

WILLIAM HADDON.

New York, June 9, 1772."

In 1773 Dominic Miller was master, and on October 5th of the same year, Master P. H. Raworth made out a bill for "one quarter's schooling at 13s," on which he had received "one Load of Wood, at 3s. 6d." William Wellman, master, writes in August, 1773, to one of his patrons: "I would be very glad if you Could let me have that Trifle, as I am very much in want, for your Boy Schooling, from the 23 of Apriel to the 28 of July, which is one quarter, 9s."

In 1774, Francis Rawert (Raworth), as is shown by a bill he then makes out, and in May, 1775, Mr. Fletcher, were teachers. Ph. Ryley renders an account, in 1776, of £1 13s. for his services as teacher, which is offset by a bill of fourteen items, in which "cash" is charged three times and "rum" eleven times, bringing the bibulous professor's demand down to nine shillings. A year later Master Ryley has another account of £2 8s., and this is reduced by offsets to eight shillings, but to his credit be it said, that the word "rum" is not so frequent. In 1779-80, "Mr. Martin kept a school in a house standing then between the house of C. Vibbard and Dr. A. G. Fonda, on the north side of Union street." In 1780, John Clute, and from 1783 to 1785, Edward Johnson, taught school.

A history of the Schenectady Academy elsewhere appears in this article. The teachers for 1785 were: Michael Tyms, English teacher, appointed April 29; Nicholas Van Vranken, September 22, and Mr. Basset, October 24. Jacobus Romeyn was made usher August 14, 1786. In July, 1787, Basset and Van Vranken were still teaching; and August 20, Mr. Wilkie is engaged, to begin November 1. Mr. Basset to "leave at next quarterly examination, on September 5, 1787," and on that day, Rev. Dirck Romeyn is appointed superintendent of the academy. January 18, 1788, the teachers were: Tyms, Van Vranken and Wilkie, and May 28, Morris, Tyms and "Beck's room." From the fact that, on June 12, "Mr. Beck, usher," is directed to "leave at end of quarter in September," it is to be inferred he may have been the "teacher" in "Beck's room." Mr. Wilkie also leaves then. September 1, 1789, Mr. Elliott was teaching the English branches there. In March, 1790, Mr. Tyms was teaching arithmetic, and from September 1, 1789, to March 1, 1790, Van Vranken was Latin and Greek professor. Mr. Wilkie "taught reading, arithmetic, etc." "D. Hale was Latin preceptor as early as January, 1792." John Taylor and Luther Halsey were also professors there in 1792 and 1793.

In 1793, John Lambert kept school in Church street, in what was, in 1865, the Tannahill house.

Temperance teachings seem to have made some progress, or at least the masters were willing to make the effort to avoid the blue Mondays so frequent heretofore. The following iron-clad pledge speaks for itself:

"This agreement, made the twentieth day of March, 1800, Witnesseth, That the subscriber hereunto will not, betwixt this date and the first day of June next ensuing, neglect his school through means of his getting intoxicated, with any kind of liquors whatsoever, under a forfeit of five dollars for each time, time to be stopped out of his school pay by me. BARTHOLOMEW SCHERMERHORN.

SCHUYLENBERGH SCHOOL, }

March 20, 1800. }

(Signed)

JOHN HETHERINGTON."

True, this pledge only provides for "neglect" of his duties, but it was a good step in the right direction.

With the beginning of the Schenectady Academy, and particularly after it merged into Union College, education proper commenced here. While the bulk of the students attended these schools, still there were some private schools in existence, among which were the following:

In 1800, Mrs. Van Orden taught a school in the second house from the corner of Washington and State streets. A Mr. Barhydt and a Mr. Wiggins (who also read prayers in the Episcopal Church) were teaching here in 1802, and four years later "Mr. Ganley taught school in a room in the yard on the south side of State street, back of where Gray's shoe store afterwards was." Mr. Shumway in 1805 "kept school" in a house at the west corner of Front and Ferry streets, and

Thomas Dunlap taught vocal music at Mr. Mooney's school-house in 1807.

By a notice published March 28, 1808, it appears that a "French professor" had recently been engaged for the "Schenectady Female Academy," who "will devote two hours in the forenoon of each day to the instruction of such young ladies as wish to acquire a knowledge of that language." Mr. Malcom and C. C. Cuyler were teachers of the Female Academy in 1808. It was located at 32 Church street, the lot afterward passing into the hands of the Masonic Order.

February 4, 1812, the president of the consistory of the Dutch Church was authorized to subscribe fifty dollars "toward the support of a suitable person to instruct the people of color in this place," and April 20, measures were taken by them to establish a school, and they "procured the late Mr. Murdock's store" for that purpose.

This ends our recital of the "Old Masters" of Schenectady. The opening of the "Lancaster" School in 1816 marked an important epoch in our educational development.

THE LANCASTER SCHOOL, 1816-1854.

In the Lancasterian System of Schools, thus named after its inventor, Joseph Lancaster, of England, the seats and tables were arranged in the center of the school-room, leaving a passage clear around the outside; on the walls hung stiff cards or pasteboards containing the lessons, so that the class, standing in a semicircle, could learn to read and spell from the same card. The tables were divided into partitions, or shallow boxes, filled with sand, and occupying the spaces in front of each scholar. The child was taught the letters and how to make them by drawing them in the sand with a stick, cut sharp at one end and flat at the other, so that light and heavy lines could be made without having to retrace them. The sand was smoothed over with a rule of exactly the same width as the partition, and the lines to rule the sand were made by little pegs in the ruler, on the other side, which was used after the sand had been smoothed. After learning to trace the letters in the sand, the scholars were given slates and pencils, afterward pens and ink. Monitors from the higher classes were assigned classes to teach, being changed frequently, so that teaching might not occupy too much of their time to the detriment of their own studies.

An act to incorporate the Schenectady Lancaster School Society was passed November 12, 1816. The act provides that this school could be established in the compact parts of the first and second wards of the city; and that the thirteen trustees therein appointed should receive all the moneys rightfully due them under the act relative to common schools.

The thirteen trustees named in the act (and who by the act were to be elected annually by the citizens) were; Maus Schermerhorn, Henry Yates, Jr., Cyrus Stebbins, Jacob Van Vechten, Hooper Cumming, Isaac Riggs, Elisha Taylor, Eliphalet

Nott, James Bailey, David Boyd, Abraham S. Groot, Charles Kane and James C. Duane.

The first meeting of the Board of Trustees was held November 20, 1816, at the office of Henry Yates. James C. Duane was elected President; David Boyd, Treasurer; and Isaac Riggs, Secretary. Different committees were appointed, among which was one to draft by-laws and one to ascertain "the probable expense of a building for the school-house." February 12, 1817, a committee reported to the Board that "they had procured a lot from the corporation" for school purposes, and a committee was appointed to receive proposals for building such house. The by-laws were adopted five days later.

December 17, 1817, a committee reported that they had "obtained for the benefit of the Lancaster School Society, from the corporation of this city, seventy acres of land on the hill opposite Jacob Lyons'" which was situated on "the northeast side of the Albany and Schenectady turnpike," * * * that "they expect to receive for the taxes laid on the two inner wards, the sum of \$213.72," and in February next, "to receive from the State about the said sum of \$213," which, with about \$90 "in the hands of D. L. Van Antwerp, "will make a total of about \$500 to be received during the current year." It was also resolved at this meeting that the salary of the teacher should be \$750 yearly, provided enough money was received to make that amount; if not, then the salary was to be all above "the current expenses of the year."

January 10, 1818, Nicholas Van Vranken was unanimously chosen to be the teacher upon the opening of the school.

The report of 23d May, places the tuition at "one dollar a quarter, paid in advance," and that school be opened June 24. (The building in which it was located is now occupied, 1885, by the Union School Primary Department on Union street.)

July 24, the committee reported that they had "caused the school-house to be finished, and that there remained due to Mr. Lyon the sum of \$317.-25, after deducting \$488.70, the price of 54 acres 1 rood 8 perches of land at \$9 per acre. Cost of the whole, \$809.95.

The first Teacher's Report to the Board, showing the result of the Lancasterian system, was presented by Nicholas Van Vranken, March, 1820. In this remarkably able paper it is stated. "The whole number of scholars admitted into the school since the 1st March, 1819, is 267. The school is divided into 8 reading classes; from the first to the second of these there have been 27 promotions; to the third, 28; to the fourth, 26; to the fifth, 44; to the sixth, 31; to the seventh, 39; and to the eighth, 36." The method in use is then spoken of: "When it is taken into consideration that none are permitted to write on paper but those who write a fair and handsome hand on the slate, and that 154 out of 267 have done this, the excellence of the place * * * must stand unquestioned."

March 27, 1824, tuition was reduced to twenty-five cents; the salary of the teacher to \$500; and resolved that "poor scholars, not exceeding forty, be admitted into the school gratuitously."

June 27, 1831, the corporate seal, a circular seal with the letters "S. L. S." engraved thereon, was adopted.

March 23, 1832, it was resolved that the teacher receive for his salary for the ensuing year, after deducting therefrom the incidental expenses of the school, "the total amount of the public money arising from tax and school fund, and also the amount received for tuition, at twenty-five cents per scholar." "The poor children" to be received as per resolution of March 27, 1824. Many outside duties were thrown upon the teacher; he personally bargained for and superintended all repairs, building of walks, etc. March 13, 1833, Ezekiel Sexton was elected teacher in place of Mr. Van Vranken, who declined a reappointment. Resolutions commendatory of Mr. Van Vranken for his fifteen years' services as teacher were passed by the Board, and Mr. Van Vranken was elected one of the Trustees of the Board. October 16, 1833, it was resolved that the present school-house be sold to Dr. Nott for \$225, "reserving the benches and fixtures," and that they purchase of Gov. Yates, a lot on College street for \$500, of forty feet front, upon which a new school-house is to be erected. October 28th the committee reported that Dr. Nott wanted the outhouses, etc., included with the school-house. This the Board refused to grant, and it was decided that the buildings should be turned into the general building fund, to be used as far as practicable in the new school-house. The Joseph C. Yates lot was bought for \$500, as is shown by the report of March 19, 1834, and on March 26th it appears that Dr. Nott had finally purchased the school-house for \$250, "the benches being reserved." The school "to be vacated the 1st of April next."

Proposals, as follows, for building the new school-house, were submitted 21st April:

John N. Vrooman, for \$759.98½; Frederick Tupper, for \$800; Henry Vine, for \$775; Berten & Kingsley, for \$850; Edward Clark, for \$800. Mr. Vrooman's bid being accepted.

Mr. James Slater was elected teacher one week later, and specifications for the new school-house in College street were decided upon. It was to be "forty feet from front to rear, thirty feet wide, and twenty feet high from top of sills to top of plates," and to be "finished June 1st next." The first meeting was held in the building July 16th, when it was ordered that the second story be completed.

April 1, 1836, it was *Resolved*, "That this corporation feel themselves obliged to appropriate, for the purposes of the education of the colored children of this city, such proportion of the public money as may hereafter be collected on the enumeration of such children," and in June, 1837, \$25 was set aside from the school funds to be applied for the maintenance of a teacher in the "African Lancaster School Society."

March 15, 1839, this resolution, etc., was adopted: "*Whereas*, Doubts have been expressed whether any other mode of instruction than what is called the 'Lancaster System,' can be used in the schools of this Society; *Resolved*, that this Board request our members of Assembly and the Senate * * * to procure a law to remove such doubts, and leave this Board the power of causing all the branches of education taught in any of the common schools of this State to be taught in the schools of this Society, and in any approved mode that this Society may deem expedient to adopt." Mr. Slater was hired as teacher for another year; his pay to be so much of the public money as does not exceed \$550 and the tuition money. "He to employ at his own expense a female teacher for the female department." April 18th, a District Library was ordered to be paid for with the State money. At this meeting \$200 was appropriated for the establishment of a school or schools in the first ward, and \$300 for schools "in the part of the third or fourth wards, or in both, or either of them, within the Police District." These schools to be subject to the regulations of the Board, so long as their teachers "receive any part of the appropriation." By December 30th, \$279.34 had been expended for the new library, and the books were, "for the present," in the rooms of the "Young Men's Association," and Alexander Cameron was appointed Librarian.

The committee appointed April 18, 1839, reported February 25, 1840, that: A school be established in the first ward; teacher's salary to be \$250; tuition to be \$1.50 per quarter from May to November; \$1.75 November to May. Grammar, geography, bookkeeping, navigation and surveying to be taught. Section 8 of the report is as follows: "It is proposed to continue some parts of the 'Lancaster System' (such as the mode of teaching the names and mode of forming figures and letters) in the first or primary school, and in the other schools in the wards for beginners, but to depend upon instruction from the teachers personally so soon as the scholar has made progress beyond the first elements of literature;" and section 7 states that they "hope to have" furnished by the corporation "the engine-house in Liberty street, and the old market belonging to the heirs of Peter Smith." The treasurer's report of April 6, 1840, shows \$833.75 on hand.

Wm. D. Cockran and Miss Stiles were engaged as teachers for the "Lancaster School;" Martin C. Hall for Ferry Street School; and Harvey Moore for Liberty Street School. These two last opening May 4, 1840.

The annual report, made to the Superintendent of Common Schools, November 1, 1840, shows that during the past year the whole amount of public money received from the County Treasurer was \$1,396.88, of which \$279.37 was paid for books, \$48 to the African School, and the balance of \$1,069.51 for wages of teachers (they also received about \$450 tuition fees). The number of children taught in all the schools in which the trustees had any voice was 360; the number of children re-

siding within the Police between the ages of five and sixteen years was 1,065. The teachers were: James Slater, Martin C. Hall, Misses Ritchie, Thurston and Stiles, their monthly wages running from \$15 to \$45.

April 1, 1841, Myndert Veeder was teacher for the Liberty street school, James Slater and Miss Stiles re-elected for the Lancaster School, and Nicholas Merselis for the Ferry street school. The "Lancaster School Report," submitted at this meeting shows the total amount of school money received for the year to be \$1,409.12.

April 11, 1842, the school money was divided as follows: "The school in College street, male department, \$330; female department, 135; Ferry street school, \$190; Liberty street school, \$190; John B. Clute School, in State street, \$115 (this is the first mention in the minutes of this school); and the African School, \$40." July 15 "the rear lot of the Lancaster House was leased to James D. Felthousen for a term of fifteen years" (price not stated). November 1st, Joseph Blanchard was appointed teacher in the State street school.

The school money, as reported April 9, 1843, was \$1,335.88, and at this meeting Nancy Ferrell was engaged as teacher for the female department, and Frederick De Lamater for the State street school. On March 5th there were 1,009 volumes in the Library.

During 1843-44 the question of changing the present school system was seriously agitated, when, on January 6, 1845, it was decided "not to take any action thereon at present."

The annual report of Alexander Holland, made April 2, 1845, was so unusually accurate and detailed, that he was given a special vote of thanks.

The appropriation for 1845 for the pay of teachers was:

College street school, male department,	\$265 00
" " " female "	110 00
Maiden lane "	175 00
Ferry street "	175 00
State street "	175 00
Miss Clark, a private teacher in Yates st.,	20 00
Miss Ritchie, " " " Front "	20 00
Miss Joanna Crooks, " Wash'n'ton "	20 00
African School,	40 00
Total,	\$1,000 00

Wm. G. Caw was appointed teacher for the Fourth ward school in May, in place of Mr. De Lamater, resigned, and, in October, M. Myndert Veeder was elected teacher in the Lancaster School *vice* Mr. Hall, resigned. It appears, from the minutes of this meeting, that the "Fourth ward school was held in Wm. Hannah's building in State street."

The report made April 10, 1846, shows that the average attendance at the different schools had been:

College street, male department,	94
" " female "	117
Ferry "	51
Maiden Lane,	61
Fourth ward,	90

The amount of school money received for the year, reported April 24th, was \$1,295.85. On May 6th the gradual introduction of uniform text-books was recommended.

This was brought forth by a memorial from the teachers, presented at the last meeting. The following is a list of the books designated by them, with those also named by the committee:

Webster's Spelling Book, Hazen's Speller and Definer, Sanders' First, Second and Third Reader, Hale's History of the United States, Porter's Rhetorical Reader, New Testament, Smith's Grammar, Mitchell's Geography, First and Second, Crittenden's Arithmetic, Parley's History, Davies' Algebra, Olmstead's Philosophy, Marsh's Bookkeeping (Single Entry), Crittenden's Bookkeeping (Double Entry).

The introduction of music books was also favored. It seems that music very soon became part of the curriculum, as on August 20th the teachers invited the Board "to attend an examination of their scholars in musical exercises" soon to be held, which invitation was accepted by the Board as a body. The following week, on the 29th, a grand concert was given by the united scholars in the consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church, which was well attended. Mr. S. B. Marsh was the musical instructor.

The agitation regarding a change from the Lancaster system was again raised during 1847. During this year—1847—the Maiden Lane school was removed to a room leased in the Cameronian Church. Mr. Vedder, the retiring secretary, added these words to the minutes of the meeting held July 17th: "*Vale, vale, longum vale.* How mutable are all human affairs. Othello's occupation gone. Bread or no bread."

The amount appropriated April 10, 1848, for pay for teachers was: three male teachers at \$250 a year, or \$750; one female teacher at \$100; and one at \$125. Total, \$975.

The apportionment of the school money for teachers' salaries made April 6, 1849, was as follows:

College street school, male department	\$245 00
" " " female "	110 00
Maiden lane "	245 00
Ferry street "	245 00
Miss Sanders' "	110 00
African "	40 00
Total	\$995 00

During 1849 there were various complaints made against different teachers, but in every case the teacher was sustained by the Board.

January 4, 1850, the customary resolutions were passed regarding the death of Frederick R. Van Ingen, Esq., a late member of the Board. Hiram Champion was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by his death. January 26th it was recommended "that the schools be made entirely free from the present quarter," but no definite action was taken thereon, and March 7th it was reported that there would be sufficient school money (\$1,997) to pay the teachers enough more to make up for their deprivation of tuition money, and also to establish

another school of a higher grade. April 4th the appropriation for teachers was :

First ward school, male.....	\$310 00
Second " " " female.....	310 00
Fourth " " male.....	310 00
" " " female.....	170 00

Total.....\$1,270 00
and \$225 was applied for the Library.

The report of the Treasurer, made April 18th, shows the school money received for the year to be \$1,261.10, which, with \$307.69 received from the former Treasurer, made \$1,568.69 total cash received. April 25th, the Special Committee upon By-laws made their report. This report provides for the routine business of the Board, the appointment of committees, regular and special, etc. The report of the "Library and Text-Book" Committee, made at this meeting, is :

Year.	Appropriation.	Vols. purchased.
1839.....	\$279 34	185
1840.....	274 91	218 probably.
1841.....	281 84	218 "
1842.....	267 25	205 "
1843.....	267 17	183
1844.....	268 00	131
1845.....	259 17	95
1846.....	260 60	197
1847.....	264 59	195
1848.....	247 47	135
1849.....	254 70	118
11 years.	\$2,915 04	1,879 vols.

119 volumes are reported as missing, and "96 volumes probably."

May 2, the following uniform system of text-books was recommended :

Reading and Spelling—Mandeville's Course, 1 to 6,
New Testament,
Swan's Spelling Book,
Mitchell's Primary and large Geography,
Perkins' Primary, Elementary and High Arithmetic, and Colburn's Intellectual,
Grammar—Brown's first lines and larger,
Cutter's Physiology,
Hall's History of the United States,
Gray's Natural Philosophy,
Perkins' Elements of Algebra and Geometry,
Johnston's Catechism of Agricultural Chemistry, which was adopted by the Board May 23. The tuition for children under five years of age was fixed at \$2 per quarter. The report of July 11 shows that John W. Schoolcraft had been teaching the African School since June 3d, at \$15 per month. (This school had not been in operation for some months), and October 11th it was decided that this school should be closed November 3d.

The question of a free school had, by this time, become universally agitated, and in January, 1852, a committee was appointed to prepare a draft of a law for such a school in the city, with a view of having the same presented to the Legislature at its present session. The committee reported, through its President, February 24th, that "the free school of the city of Troy, with such alterations and amend-

ments as may be necessary, as being suitable for this city," and the report was adopted.

In 1853 a new school was opened in the Third ward, on "The Green," and Miss Frances M. Sacia was engaged as teacher on April 1st.

The last meeting of the "Lancaster School Society" of which there is any record, was held March 16, 1854, the minutes being in the handwriting of Mr. B. V. S. Vedder, for many years its Secretary. By these minutes it appears that the Trustees recently elected were :

A. A. Van Vorst, B. V. S. Vedder, W. H. Clute, A. M. Vedder, Francis Van DeBogart, Peter Vedder, Jont. Pierson, Nathaniel Clark, D. M. Chadsey, John Foster, S. L. Hand, M. C. Myers and A. M. Mull.

A. A. Van Vorst was elected President, B. V. S. Vedder, Secretary, and A. M. Vedder, Treasurer. At this meeting the following resolution was adopted :

"That this Board do approve of the act now before the Legislature of this State, providing for the reorganization and improvement of the school system of this city, and that we recommend its immediate passage," and "that the President and Secretary be requested to forward a copy of the foregoing resolution to the chairman of the proper committee of the Senate of this State, under their official signatures."

The "Lancaster School System," after a life of nearly forty years (1816 to 1854), gave way during the latter year, to our present Free School system.

THE FREE SCHOOL SYSTEM, 1854-1885.

April 9, 1854, an act was passed by the Legislature in relation to the public schools in the city of Schenectady, and on the 15th of the month the Union School was established. In the evening of that day the first meeting of School Commissioners was held at the Common Council Chamber at the Court House. There were present : Alonzo C. Paige and Nicholas Van Vranken, from the First Ward; D. M. Moore and Wm. M. Duane, of the Second; Charles Chequer and Hiram Champion, of the Third; and Rev. I. G. Duryee and D. M. Chadsey, of the Fourth Ward. After organization, Mr. Nicholas Van Vranken was elected president, and D. M. Chadsey, secretary. James J. Marlette succeeded Mr. Chadsey the following year. The commissioners, at this meeting, drew lots to decide which should hold the long or short terms. Steps for the purchase of a proper building for school purposes were at once taken, and, May 26th, David M. Moore, of the committee, reported that the West College, which originally cost over \$53,000, could be purchased by the city for \$6,000. The grounds were 225 feet front on College street. This property was secured shortly after this report, and the first two stories were made ready to accommodate about 450 scholars, it being believed that that number would cover all those ready to attend the school.

October 15, 1852, the school was formally opened. In the evening appropriate exercises were

held at the Presbyterian Church, at which speeches were made by Dr. Nott, Dr. Hickok and Judge Paige. That the commissioners had been in error in concluding that the two lower stories would accommodate those desirous of attending was soon made apparent. From 450 the pupils immediately increased to over 1,100, and it was necessary to close the school in order to prepare the third story.

The re-opening was December 10th, at which time there were accommodations for 1,200 pupils; 800 in the main building, 200 in the old Lancaster school building, and 200 in the White street building.

In the beginning the Union School was divided into ten departments over which George B. Cook was principal; he was assisted by the following teachers: Mary A. Morrill, junior and senior primary departments; Lizzie A. W. Hill, junior secondary department; Huldah A. Allen, senior secondary department; Isabella E. Fisher, junior intermediate department; Angeline A. Monk, senior intermediate department; Caroline Van Voorhis, junior grammar department; Malvina Proctor, senior grammar department; Jane L. Olmstead, Catharine S. Olmstead, Mary Wilds, higher English department; John S. Parsons, Mary A. Bodge, Caroline L. Bridgman, academical department; Abby W. French and two assistant teachers, boys' library school; and Rebecca M. Gurnsey and Jane I. Cunningham, White street school.

The attendance at this school, from its commencement, has steadily increased. The whole building was soon in use, and 1859, what is known as the "New Building" was erected. In 1872 another change was necessary, and the classical department was removed to the Delavan building at the corner of Union and Church streets, and the Fifth ward school was erected. Five years later, 1877, the Park Place school was put up, and the Nott Terrace school followed in 1883.

The yearly school-money now is about \$30,000. Mr. Samuel B. Howe was appointed Superintendent of Schools August 31, 1868, and has held the position continuously ever since. To his personal efforts much of the success of the schools are due.

The number of scholars' names now on the registers is 2,500, and the average daily attendance is about 1,800. To instruct these the following named teachers are required, the year of the commencement of their services in Schenectady being also given: Anna E. Gilbert, Main School, August, 1860; Sarah E. LaRue, August, 1860; Elizabeth M. Yates, June, 1867; Mary C. Paine, December, 1870; Marie Hastings, October, 1871; Mary L. Buell, August, 1872; Elizabeth Hallowell, November, 1873; Ella McNee, March, 1876; Emma Lee, August, 1880; Augusta Oothout, November, 1880; Helena A. Hall, November, 1880; Jennie Vedder, June, 1881; Emma C. Chubb, February, 1882; Susie C. Vedder, June, 1882; Susie N. Sprague, October, 1882; Anna Ferguson, November 1882; Lillie D. Daley, June, 1883; Carrie A. Brown, June, 1883; Ella McKenry, June, 1883;

Ella Terworth, October, 1884; Mary Cleary, March, 1885. Total, 21.

C. S. Halsey, Classical School, July, 1875; Helen E. Carley, June, 1881; Emma L. Clare, June, 1881; Ida J. Fenn, September, 1882; M. H. Duurloo, July, 1883; Dow Beekman, June, 1884; Georgia Gates, Classical and Elocution, June, 1884. Total, 7.

Olive Morris, Nott Terrace School, August, 1866; Ernestine Stockwell, January, 1868; Lydia H. Brown, February, 1872; Minnie A. Piper, December, 1881; Alice D. Stevens, June, 1882; Mary F. Caw, February, 1883; Lottie Allen, June, 1883; Carrie R. Smith, October, 1884. Total, 8.

Anna E. Cunningham, Albany Hill School, May, 1867; Lucinda Sands, April, 1874; Joanna Chandler, October, 1874; Lillian G. King, April, 1885. Total, 4.

Rachel Baker, Park Place School, September, 1874; Etta W. Felthousen, March, 1877; Margaret L. Groot, March 1877; Irene Schermerhorn, March, 1882. Total, 4.

Helen Palmer, Instrumental Music, August, 1864.

RECAPITULATION OF TEACHERS.

Main School, 21; Classical, 7; Nott Terrace, 8; Albany Hill, 4; Park Place, 4. Total number, Teachers, 44.

S. B. HOWE was born in Tompkins Co., N. Y., and graduated from Union College in 1862. He served as adjunct professor in the college, and previous to his location here, in 1868, as school superintendent, in Ithaca (1862), Catskill (1865), and Albany (1867).

CADY STALEY, Professor of Civil Engineering in Union College, was born in Florida, Montgomery County, N. Y., December 12, 1840, and graduated from Union College in 1865. He became a civil engineer in 1867, and in 1881 served on the Central Pacific Railroad as bridge engineer, and is at present Dean and Acting Treasurer of the College.

Many graduates from "Old Union" remember JAMES PICKETT, who was for many years prior to his death the superintendent of the college grounds. Mr. Pickett's unobtrusive kindness and Christian character made for him many friends.

CHARLES S. HALSEY was born in Cambria, Niagara County, N. Y., December 20, 1834, and graduated from Williams College in 1856. He served as principal in Macedon Academy, Wayne County, N. Y., from September, 1856, to March, 1858; Newton Collegiate Institute, Newton, N. J., from April, 1859, to April, 1861; Macedon Academy, from August, 1862, to June, 1865; High School, Burlington, Vt., from 1872 to 1875; and in 1875 was elected principal of the Union Classical Institute, Schenectady, N. Y. He is author of "A Genealogical and Chronological Chart of the Rulers of England, Scotland, France, Germany and Spain" (1873), and (1882) "An Etymology

of Latin and Greek." His studies in philology have been extensive.

SCHENECTADY ACADEMY.

The first authentic information of any special attention being given to an organized school system in Schenectady dates back to the revolution.

The coming of Dominie Romeyn as pastor of the Dutch Church, was the inspiration of the Schenectady Academy. Through his influence the church was induced to erect a commodious building, the citizens agreeing to give it their patronage and furnish it with a library. The church contemplated constructing a house of two stories, with two rooms on each story, upon the lot of ground upon which the old guard-house now stands, at the junction of Church and State streets. Three rooms were to be assigned for the use of the school and academy.

On account of the great cost of the Academy-house to the church, it was "resolved, that said church shall receive four shillings from every scholar taught in said house, and if said academy or *Illustrate School* shall become changed into a college, then the presidents of such college, as well as the rector of said school, shall be a member of the Dutch Church and minister of this church; and the said four shillings for each scholar shall be bestowed upon such poor scholars as the church shall name."

The consistory, about March 5, 1785, were still negotiating with the town magistrates for the improvement of the common schools of the town and for the establishment of an academy. The consistory ordered the gathering of materials for the academy on the 16th of the same month, and on the 28th it was considered expedient to build the academy, not upon the old guard-house lot, but upon the north corner of Union and Ferry streets.

April 7, 1785, the academy building was well under way, and the consistory, together with twenty-seven respectable citizens of the town, met at Rueben Simond's public-house in Church street, to close the matter of the academy by signing articles of agreement for its management and support. (This agreement is drawn with great formality and particularity in eleven sections, and is written upon fifteen pages of foolscap—probably by Do. Romeyn, who was president of the meeting.)

William Schermerhorn was appointed superintendent, and a committee, both of citizens and consistory, to urge forward the Academy building. A stone of an oval shape was built into the front on which were cut the names of the building committee; this stone is now in Union College Museum.

An effort was made in 1791 to endow this school by a grant of Indian lands; and November 16, Dr. Dirk Van Ingen announced to the consistory that he and others had rented 10,240 acres of land of the Oneida Indians for twenty-one years, on con-

sideration that he paid after five years £100 yearly to said Indians. Inasmuch as the academy, unincorporated, could not hold real estate, he offered the land to the consistory for the benefit of the Dutch Church. At first the consistory agreed to receive the land but subsequently gave it up, finding, doubtless, that it could not be legally held by the church.

On the 2d day of April, 1793, the Dutch Church made the building over to the trustees of the academy; and on September 24, 1796, it was made over to the trustees of Union College, to be sold and the money put into a more commodious building. The proceeds of this sale were finally merged in the building fund of the present Union School edifice.



Academy Building, 1795.

The academy building was of brick, two stories in height, about 50 x 30 feet on the ground, and cost about \$3,000. It was used by Union College until 1804. This school was opened in 1793 under the care of Col. John Taylor, of New Jersey. This school appears to have been conducted with much ability, and being well sustained by the community in which it was planted, became the germ of the college.

An academic school, in connection with Union College, was established by President Nott immediately after his election in 1804. The teachers of this school were appointed by him, and the principal was recognized by the laws of the college as a member of the faculty. This academic school became popular and extensively useful for many years.

On the 7th of April, 1818, an act was passed authorizing the revival and reorganization of the Schenectady Academy, which was done by the election of a Board of Trustees on the 1st day of April, 1819. The academic department of Union College was merged into this school.

The Rev. Dr. Nathan N. Whiting was appointed principal of the academy, and was succeeded by Mr. Wm. Beattie, who resigned in 1828, and was succeeded by Daniel Fuller.

The academy continued until the reorganization of the schools of the city in 1854.

UNION COLLEGE.

Union College was founded at Schenectady, February 25, 1795. The Legislature having vested in the regents of the university the right of granting college charters, a memorial was addressed to the board by the trustees of the Schenectady Academy, which led to the granting of a charter to twenty-four persons therein named, and their successors, under the title of "The Trustees of Union College

in the Town of Schenectady, in the State of New York." The first trustees were Robert Yates, Abraham Yates, Jr., Abraham Ten Broeck, Golds-brow Banyar, John V. Henry, George Merchant, Stephen Van Rensselaer, John Glen, Isaac Vrooman, Joseph C. Yates, James Shuter, Nicholas Veeder, James Gordon, Beriah Palmer, Samuel Smith, Henry Walton, Ammi Rodgers, Aaron Conduit, Jacobus V. C. Romeyn, James Cochran, John Frey, D. Christopher Pick, Jonas Platt, and Jonas Coe.



COLLEGE BUILDINGS AND CAMPUS, UNION COLLEGE.

Of these, seven resided in Albany, six in Schenectady, three in Ballston; and in Saratoga, Troy, Kinderhook, Palatine, Herkimer and Whitestown, N. Y., and Hackensack, N. J., one each.

Under an act passed March 30, 1805, the charter was amended by the regents, March 29, 1806, by reducing the number to twenty-one and adding the Chancellor, Justices of the Supreme Court, Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, Attorney-General and Surveyor-General, by virtue of their civil offices. The Constitution of 1821, by reducing the number of Judges made further vacancies, which by an act passed February 14, 1823, were to be filled by the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor.

The Constitution of 1846, by abolishing some of the above offices, required further changes, and the *ex officio* trustees are now the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary of State, Comptroller and Treasurer. They were empowered to hold an estate with an income of \$13,333 $\frac{1}{3}$, were vested with the usual powers of a college, and were empowered to fill vacancies in their board.

The chronicles of the day record that the event of receiving a college charter was celebrated by great rejoicing, with the ringing of bells, display of flags, bonfires and general illumination.

The name "*Union College*" was given as expressing the intention of uniting all religious sects in a common interest for the common good, by offering equal advantages to all, with preference to none.

It is believed that this is the first college in the United States not confessedly denominational in its character.

The college was organized on the 19th of October, 1795, by the election of Rev. John Blair Smith, D.D., of Philadelphia, as president; John

Taylor, A. M., as professor of mathematics and natural philosophy; and the Rev. Andrew Yates, as professor of the Latin and Greek languages.

The first commencement was held May, 1797, and the first degree conferred upon three young men, who had completed the course of study required.

This was an occasion of signal and novel interest all over the country around, and drew together a large and enthusiastic audience. The public exercises were held in the old Reformed Dutch Church.

Dr. Smith was succeeded by Rev. Jonathan Edwards, D. D. (son of Rev. Jonathan Edwards, afterwards President of the College of New Jersey), who died in 1801, and was followed by Rev. Jonathan Maxcy, D. D., a Baptist clergyman from Providence, R. I., who resigned in 1804, and went to Columbia, South Carolina, as President of the South Carolina College.

Under the presidency of Dr. Edwards a new edifice was begun on a scale magnificent for that day, and still one of the finest and best built in the city.

Rev. Eliphalet Nott was chosen president in 1804.

Dr. Nott found the college wanting both means and students. The inhabitants of Schenectady had proposed an endowment of \$30,000 in lands, obligations and money; but the largest subscription was only \$250, the next \$100, and the total sum altogether, from sources other than direct gift of the State, but \$42,043.74. Grants were made by the State as follows:

April 9, 1795, for books and apparatus, \$3,750; April 11, 1796, for buildings, \$10,000; March 30, 1797, for salaries, \$1,500; March 7, 1800, for

completion of building, \$10,000; March 7, 1800, ten lots, of 550 acres each, in the military tract, for support of president and professors, \$43,483.93; April 8, 1801, and April 3, 1802, sale of garrison lands near Lake George, \$9,378.20. Total grants before 1804, \$78,112.13.

The building, begun under President Edwards, in 1792, was still unfinished, and the college was burdened with a heavy debt. It was completed during the first year of Dr. Nott's incumbency. The original cost, including the site, was \$60,000. It contained a residence for the president, the



THE OLD WEST COLLEGE, NOW UNION SCHOOL.

chapel, library and recitation-rooms, and a considerable number of dormitories. In 1815 it was sold to the city and county for a court-house, jail and city offices, and, while thus owned, was commonly known as the "City Hall." The college received in payment 3,000 acres of land, in detached parcels, in various parts of Schenectady County. In 1831 it was repurchased by the college for \$10,000, and used for library, cabinets and residents of freshmen and sophomore classes until 1854. It was then resold to the city for the sum of \$6,000, and is now known as "Union School." Between 1805 and 1810 a row of two-story brick buildings was erected on College street for use of dormitories. It was known as "Long College," and was sold in 1830. The means that had been provided were quite inadequate to the wants of a prosperous college, and to supply the needed endowment recourse was had to an expedient, now forbidden by a better public sentiment, but then deemed proper, for raising funds in aid of every religious, educational and benevolent enterprise of the day and for public improvements. It was therefore deemed advisable to urge the passage of a law, which was secured March 30, 1805, for raising the sum of \$80,000 by lottery. This sum was to be drawn by four successive lotteries of \$20,000 each. The act directed \$35,000 to be applied to the erection of additional buildings; an equal sum

to be invested, the interest to be applied to the support of professorships, and the remaining \$10,000 to be invested, one-half of the proceeds for a classical library and the balance toward defraying the expenses of indigent scholars. It appears, from a legislative report made in 1814, that but \$55,000 were realized from this grant.

A few years' experience showed that the location in the city was not sufficiently ample, and the observing eye of Dr. Nott, at an early period in his presidency, had noticed in the suburbs a better one, that combined in rare degree every advantage desirable.

A tract of some 250 acres was secured, and new buildings begun, on College Hill, in 1812, and were occupied in part in the summer of 1814. To provide the means for these improvements, and for a substantial endowment, application was made to the State for another grant of a kind similar to the last. An act was accordingly passed, largely through the efforts of Dr. Nott, for raising the sum of \$200,000 for Union College and considerable sums for other institutions. Of the sum allowed to Union College there was specially given:

For the erection of buildings, \$100,000; for payment of existing debts, \$30,000; for library and apparatus, \$20,000; for relief of indigent students, 50,000. Total, including all sums previously given by the State, \$331,612.13.

The proceedings consequent upon these transactions extended through many years, and the drawings of the lotteries were not entirely closed until the end of 1833.

From the time of completion of buildings on the new site the college entered upon a season of general prosperity, and the unusually large proportion in the senior classes shows a fact well known throughout the country, that many students, after passing through the lower classes elsewhere, came hither to enjoy the instruction of Dr. Nott, and receive from him their first degree.

The advancing age of Dr. Nott led to the calling, in 1852, of the Rev. Laurens P. Hickok, D. D., from the Auburn Theological Seminary to serve as vice-president, and upon him gradually devolved the cares of the presidency, although they were not actually conferred in name until after the death of Dr. Nott, in 1866.

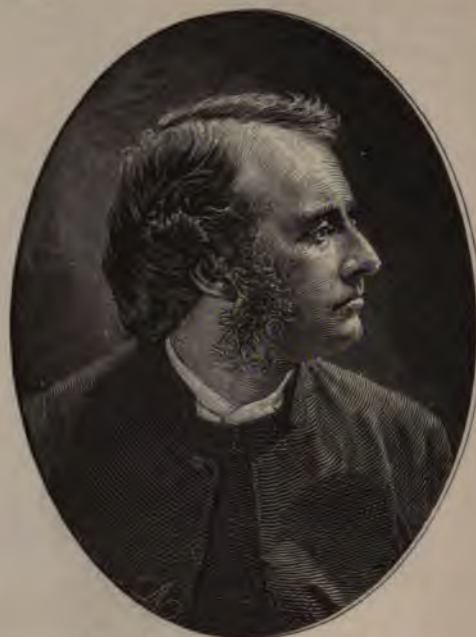
SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF THE COLLEGE.—This event in the history of the college was celebrated in connection with the commencement exercises in 1845. The occasion called together an immense number of the alumni and literary strangers, to receive whom the common council extended the hospitality of the city, and all the principal citizens opened their houses to receive guests. The Rev. Josh. Sweetman, of the first class graduated, and the Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter, of the class of 1818, then recently elected Bishop of Pennsylvania, delivered addresses on the occasion.

SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF DR. NOTT'S PRESIDENCY.—This occasion was celebrated on the 25th of July, 1854. As on the previous gathering, the hospitalities of the city were tendered to the returning sons of Union, and to the literary strangers called together by so unusual an event. The address of Dr. Nott was a compact and interesting review of the labors, joys and trials of the last fifty years. The principal orators of the occasion were the Rev. Francis Wayland, President of Brown University, and the Hon. Wm. W. Campbell, of Cherry Valley.

RECENT HISTORY.—On the retirement of Dr. Hickok, Charles A. Aiken, D.D., of Dartmouth College, was chosen president, and he filled the duties with acceptance until 1871, when, for domestic reasons, he resigned; and in the selection of a successor, the choice fell upon the Rev. Eliphalet Nott Potter, D. D., the grandson of Dr. Nott and son of Bishop Alonzo Potter.

With the declining years of Dr. Nott the number of students decreased, and during the late war the college was nearly stripped of its students by the withdrawal of the whole number from the South, while many from the North were attracted to new institutions that were competing for favor. It became a subject of serious thought on the part of those intrusted with the affairs of Union College as to how the emergency was to be met, and no plan appeared more feasible than that of yielding to the progressive spirit of the age by enlarging its facilities, extending its courses of study, and, in the best sense of the word, render-

ing it fully the peer of the first institutions of the country.



President Eliphalet Nott Potter.

PRESENT BUILDINGS.—The principal buildings of Union College are North College and South College, six hundred feet apart, and each with a colonnade facing inward; a memorial hall midway between but standing back three hundred feet from



Blue Gate.

the front line; a gymnasium in the rear of South College; a president's house, and three other dwellings on the line with the main college buildings, and a professor's residence at some distance east of the principal group of buildings; also a

semi-circular building facing westward on the campus, the centre of which is used for the library and the wings for recitation rooms.

PRESENT GROUNDS.—The original grounds acquired for college uses have been somewhat reduced by railroad and street improvements, but are scarcely liable to further encroachment, and are amply sufficient for every probable want. They embrace about one hundred and thirty acres, including the campus, gardens and grounds properly belonging to the college and essential for its use, besides some one hundred acres of woodlands and fields adjoining.



College Brook.

OTHER REAL ESTATE.—The college owns considerable land in Long Island City, that was purchased by Dr. Nott for Union College from the Hunter family, after whom Hunter's Point was named. The property has been laid out in streets and building lots, and graded. It extends about half a mile along Newtown Creek, and has a frontage on the East River of about half a mile. The property consists of several hundred building lots. In 1873 this property was considered to be worth a million dollars. The estimates now put upon it vary.

In addition to the Long Island City land, the college owns three lots on One Hundred and Eighteenth street, and a house and lot on Fourth avenue, in New York City.

COURSES OF STUDY.—The "classical course" of study usual in first-class colleges is now pursued in Union. In 1802 the required studies for the first, second and third terms of the freshman class were "Latin, Greek and English languages, arithmetic, Sheridan's Lectures on Elocution, and the

writing of Latin exercises as the faculty shall appoint." "For the Sophomore year, geography, algebra, vulgar and decimal fractions, the extraction of roots, conic sections, Euclid's Elements, trigonometry, surveying, mensuration of heights and distances, navigation, logic, Blair's Lectures, and such parts of eminent authors in the learned languages as the officers of the college shall subscribe."

A Department of Engineering was established in 1845; its course of instruction aiming to impart skill and experience in mechanical drafting, instrumental field-work, and numerical calculation, combined with the study of text-books and lectures on numerous subjects where these are wanting. This course was afterward extended to four years, and intermingled with the scientific course of the college proper. This department is unusually well supplied with models, the most important of which is the original Oliver collection, purchased in Paris, France, in 1855.

SCIENTIFIC COURSE OF STUDY,

now so popular in many colleges, originated with Dr. Nott, and was first introduced in Union College. The plan was looked upon with much distrust at first by other educators, but its benefits soon came to be appreciated and it was gradually adopted by other colleges. The system has proved its excellency and justifies the foresight of its originator. The scientific course of Union College has always maintained a first position among the educational institutions of the country.

CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

A laboratory was established for chemical analysis in 1855, at a cost of about \$7,000 for fixtures and \$10,000 for chemicals and other stock. It has been successively in charge of Professors C. E. Joy, C. F. Chandler, and of Maurice Perkins, M. D., the present incumbent.

MILITARY INSTRUCTION.

In 1873 Union College applied to the War Department requesting that an officer of the Engineer Corps might be detailed for the purpose of giving military instruction, in pursuance of the policy favored by act of Congress, with the view of inducing colleges to supplement in some degree the work of the military academy in this department of useful knowledge. The Government has, in accordance with this request, supplied the college with muskets and equipments for drill and instruction, under a commissioned officer of the army. A plain, inexpensive uniform has been adopted, and a course of military instruction has been added to the college curriculum without abating anything from the course of studies formerly prescribed. The drill is regarded chiefly as a physical training.

COLLEGE SOCIETIES.

Union College has at present two literary societies with libraries—the Philomathian Society, formed in 1793 by the young men of the town in the old academy building before the college charter was granted, possessing a library of 3,000 volumes;

the Adelpic Society, founded in 1797, and its library, containing about 3,000 volumes; eight "Greek letter" societies, some of which originated with this college; and a chapter of "Phi Beta Kappa Society," established here in 1817, and is a strictly honorary society. There is also a "Senate," formed for purpose of debate on political subjects, consisting of the Senior class. The rules of order and method of procedure are modeled, as near as may be, after those of the Senate of the United States.

An Alumni Association was formed in 1857, and has several branches. A modification of the charter was procured in 1871, by granting to the alumni a representation in the board of trustees, so that now there are four graduates holding that trust, one being chosen annually for a term of four years. The election is held on alumni day, the one preceding commencement, in the college chapel.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

Under an act passed in 1814, the sum of fifty thousand dollars was set apart as a fund, the income of which has ever since been applied in aiding young men of narrow means. This fund has been increased by several benefactions. Miss Catherine L. Wolf, of New York City, has given fifty thousand dollars in pursuance of a purpose entertained by her deceased father, Mr. John David Wolf, for aiding the education of young men from the Southern States. Dr. John McClelland (class of 1832), of New York City, influenced largely by the aid he had himself received while in college, has given fifty thousand dollars, and a worthy son of Union College has placed a bequest of thirty thousand dollars in his will to endow an emeritus professorship.

ORDINARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

To a large class of students Union College presents extraordinary advantages in its numerous scholarships. In the scholarships of the first grade the incumbents, on condition of good conduct and satisfactory application to study, receive at the end of each term a credit on the books of the registrar to the full amount of term bills.

In the scholarships of the second grade, the incumbents, on the same condition, receive a credit to the amount of half the term bills.

These scholarships are accessible, under certain restrictions, to all who present the requisite certificates of character and sustain the examinations required for admission to the regular classes of the college.

PRIZE SCHOLARSHIPS.

Among the several classes of scholarships founded by the late Dr. Nott—a few of which only are yet actually founded, but their ultimate endowment is secured by the prospective sale of valuable lands—is a class of prize scholarships granted according to certain prescribed rules. The pecuniary emolument of a prize scholarship is thirty-five dollars a term, or four hundred and twenty dollars for the whole college course, a provision which enables the incumbent, after paying his college bills, to retain the sum of one hundred and twenty dollars.

The possession of a prize scholarship demands, throughout the whole course, high standing as a student in all respects; and the incumbent is forbidden to use intoxicating liquor as a beverage, and tobacco in all its forms. Some of these scholarships enable the student to pursue post-graduate studies for a certain time.

PRIZES AND MEDALS.

There are a number of prizes given at commencement, consisting of medals, money or books, awarded for proficiency in oratory, essays and deportment, some of which can be competed for by the seniors only; others by the juniors and sophomores.

COLLEGE LIBRARIES.

There are three libraries connected with the institution, of which the college library proper contains about 20,000 volumes, the Philomathian Society library about 4,000 volumes, and the Adelpic Society about 3,000 volumes.

COLLECTIONS IN NATURAL HISTORY.

The college has long been a center of special interest for students of natural history. In 1841 it received a large collection of minerals and fossils from the State cabinet. In 1860 the "Wheatley Collection" of shells and minerals, worth more than \$20,000, was presented by E. C. Delevan. Large and valuable additions of specimens were added by Prof. H. E. Webster as the results of his labors in dredging on the coasts of Maine, Massachusetts, Virginia and Florida.

PHILOSOPHICAL DEPARTMENT.

In this department the collections, under the care of Prof. John Foster, have grown to be among the finest in the country. The donations of friends have added largely to the collection, but the principal part has been purchased by the friends of the college or by special funds raised for this purpose.

ART DEPARTMENT.

Memorial Hall affords a fine opportunity for the preservation and display of works of art, a considerable collection of which is already procured. Through a liberal annual gift of Miss Catharine L. Wolfe, of New York, the prospect that this department will become unusually fine is promising.

THE SONGS OF UNION.

This feature of college literature deserves notice. For many years they were floating waifs. Some of them were productions of real merit. A few of these songs are perennial in their fragrance and are always sung on festive occasions. The song of "Old Union," composed by Fitzhugh Ludlow, class of 1856, is always sung on commencement day at the close of the graduating services. The hearty good-will and feeling with which returning sons join in the grand chorus:

"Then here's to thee, the brave and free,
Old Union smiling o'er us;
And for many a day, as thy walls grow gray,
May they ring with thy children's chorus."

show that the gifted poet did not attune his lyre in vain.

UNION UNIVERSITY.

About forty years after the incorporation of Union College, the people of Albany conceived the idea of establishing a series of post-graduate institutions at the capital, and began by the founding of the "Albany Medical College," April 14, 1838.

The "Albany Law School" was incorporated in 1851.

The "Dudley Observatory" was incorporated in 1852.

The above institutions, together with "Union College," were incorporated as "Union University" in 1873.

"The Albany College of Pharmacy" is also a part of the University.

OFFICIALS.—President *ad interim*, Hon. Judson S. Landon, LL.D., of Schenectady. President-elect, Rev. Joseph Tuttle Duryea, D.D., Pastor of the Central Congregational Church of Boston, Mass.

TRUSTEES.—Rev. Dr. J. Trumbull Backus, Hon. E. A. Paige, Hon. Platt Potter, Hon. Judson S. Landon, of Schenectady; Hon. Fred. Townsend, Albany; Rev. Dr. Wm. Irwin, Troy; Rev. Dr. J. L. Reese, W. H. H. Moore, Hon. David Murray, LL.D., Albany; Rev. Dr. Denis Wortman, Saugerties; Hon. L. W. Rhodes, Troy; Col. D. C. Robinson, Elmira; Rev. Dr. George Alexander, Hon. Hooper C. Van Voast, Silas B. Brownell, Thomas W. Featherstonehaugh, New York; Rev. Dr. E. Nott Potter, Geneva; Dr. P. R. Furbeck, Gloversville; and the officers of the State of New York, *ex-officio*.

PROFESSORS.—Henry Whitehorne, A.M., Greek Language and Literature; Wm. Wells, A.M., Ph. D., Modern Languages; Maurice Perkins, A.M., Chemistry; Cady Staley, A.M., C. E., Civil Engineering; Samuel B. Howe, Principal Union School; Chas. S. Halsey, A.M., Principal Classical Institute; Sidney G. Ashmore, A.M., Latin; First Lieutenant, First Artillery, Henry W. Hubbell, U. S. A., Military Science; Winfield S. Chaplin, A.M., Mathematics and Physics (Knight of the Rising Sun, Japan); W. E. Griffis, D.D., Mental Science, Adjunct Professor; James R. Truax, Rhetoric and English Literature; Henry F. Depew, Adjunct Professor, Mathematics; Rev. Rudolph Farber, Hebrew.

ACTING TREASURER.—Cady Staley.

REGISTRAR.—Mrs. M. L. Peissner.

Carlyle says that the history of the world is the biography of its great men. This applies with peculiar force to the life of Eliphalet Nott. He was born in Ashford, Windham County, Connecticut, June 25, 1773. At the time of his death, January 29, 1866, he had occupied the position of President of Union College for sixty-two years, a period without parallel in the history of our literary institutions. He had long stood in the foremost rank of American educators. His reputation as a pulpit orator was hardly less distinguished; while as a reformer and philanthropist he had now an honorable position among the

benefactors of his kind. Such a life well deserves a written memorial.

In 1804 a young Presbyterian clergyman, Eliphalet Nott, was called to the presidency of Union College. A year before the organization of the college he had passed from Connecticut through Albany to a new settlement in Cherry Valley, where he became pastor and teacher. He

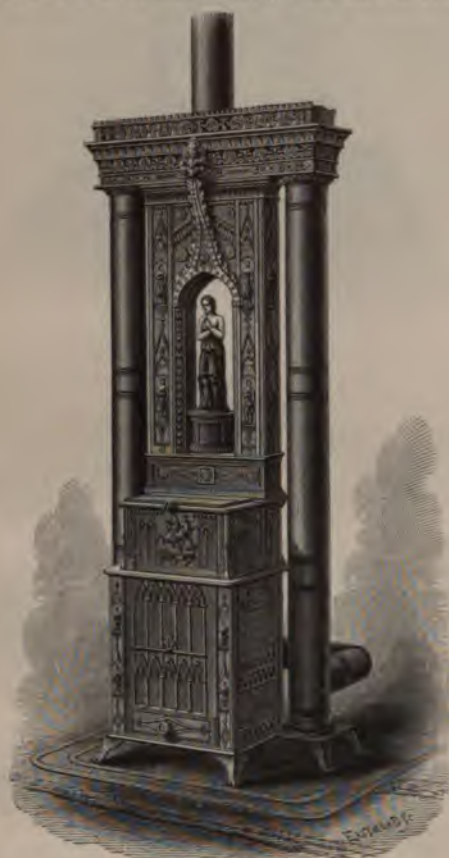


Eliphalet Nott.

was soon called to Albany, where, in 1804, he made the most fortunate effort of his life, which told greatly upon his future career. His sermon upon the death of Hamilton, at the hands of Burr, stamped him as one of the rising men of the period, and he was at once called to the presidency. President Nott found the college in imperative need of means and students. He soon appealed to the State for aid, and thus laid the foundation of measures which resulted in training the legislators and the people of the commonwealth to consider the matter of popular and higher education as the paramount duty of a Republican Government. The college was soon so rapidly increasing in numbers under his management that new buildings became a necessity, and the site now occupied by the college was obtained. During 1814 Dr. Nott succeeded in having a bill passed by the Legislature of the State, by which Union College was to have \$200,000. In this period this was a princely sum for such purposes. The discussion attending the passage of this measure attracted the attention of the whole State, during which the movement in favor of establishing common schools became so popular that men who were first opposed to it began to tone down their opposition. The president watched the bill day by day, and from this period, down through the days of Marcy, Silas Wright and Seward, the influence of Dr. Nott at the capital was very potent, and aided greatly in advancing the welfare of the institution. It is not our purpose to relate in detail the grand educational work of this man. The best years of his long life were given, un-

reservedly, to the enhancement of the college. He had time for other and important things. He was a leader in temperance teachings, his sympathies were loyal during the Civil War, and in the counsels of his own religious denomination, as well as others, his advice was often sought. His Christian sympathy and charity identified him in a practical way with every movement for moral and religious advancement.

Dr. Nott was a genius in the line of mechanical invention, and the utilization of the latent wealth of the country. "He was among the first to aid and supplement the labors of Fulton, in his efforts to introduce steam navigation on the Hudson

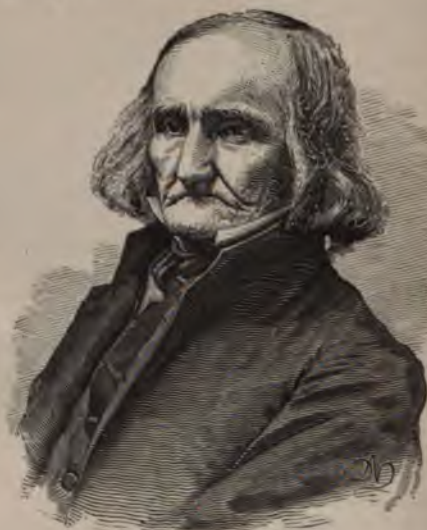


Nott Stove.

River, and the steamer 'Novelty,' which was largely constructed under his guidance, came from New York to Albany at a speed that astonished the age." In these efforts to improve and introduce machinery, and especially to utilize the newly discovered power of steam, Dr. Nott's attention was largely directed to the production and materials of combustion for mechanical and domestic purposes. The famous "Nott" stoves were long in use at the college, and gained, for a time, a broad public popularity. Albany and Troy owe their preeminence in the stove manufacture not a little to his immediate presence and counsel.

The countenance of Dr. Nott was a striking one, even in its repose; the eye, which was of a grayish

color, and capable of great variety of expression, being one of its most marked features. His forehead was high and straight, nose prominent and aquiline, and the mouth and chin well-formed and symmetrical. He was nearly six feet high, with a stalwart frame. In his intercourse with students, his quick sympathy with youth was very marked. The stern aspect of one jealous of authority was not seen in the class-room. He had a way of passing from grave to gay so easily and gracefully, that it was at once seen to be nature instead of studied art. He obtained, with some, the character of an adroit manager. It was said that he reached his ends, at times, by indirect methods, but those most familiar with him unite in their testimony to his truthfulness and honor. By necessity he was discreet, cautious and wary. He knew men and how to approach, move and convince them. His method of doing this was his own. He was a scholar, a teacher and an inventor; but it was, however, as a man, a great souled, energetic, practical man, intent on making other energetic, practical men, who should leave their mark upon their times, as he has done, that he chiefly claims our admiration. No better epitaph can be written of him than the words applied by an orator to General Grant: "He is great by the arduous greatness of things done."



Tayler Lewis.

For nearly thirty years the figure of Tayler Lewis was among the most prominent and striking upon the streets of Schenectady, and within the enclosures of Union College. His presence was not such as impressed by muscular vigor or accumulated flesh and blood. His physical frame was slight in build, and his air was that of a studious scholar, to whom vigorous or violent exercise was unknown. Yet it was not that of a recluse, but gave even the casual observer the impression of a man among men who knew what was in man. Thoroughly acquainted with human nature, Tayler Lewis chose to sway the public by

thought and argument, rather than by personal contact or by dramatic action. In his later years, when his hearing ceased, this was a necessity. Debarred from social converse with his fellows, the pen became the potent instrument of his influence, and in his venerable old age a real sceptre of power.

In his prime, his voice swayed assemblies, and during nearly a half-century of his life as a teacher he spoke with wisdom, tact, and mastery.

Though a scholar whose fame was world-wide, Tayler Lewis did not become a familiar figure in the local history of Schenectady until the outbreak of the great civil war in 1861. Long known as an earnest friend of Africa and the Africans in America, he yet had conservative views in the matter of slavery. The outbreak of the slaveholders' rebellion was to him a revelation by divine light upon those questions which the civil war brought to solution. He became a hearty supporter of the Union cause, and a prophet who cried aloud and spared not. In the dark days, when the defeat of the Union armies made the home traitors exultant, Tayler Lewis lifted up his voice like a trumpet, and showed the iniquity of secession and the righteousness of the Union cause. Like bugle blasts were his constantly issuing editorials, letters, addresses and books, inspiring alike the hearts of young and old. His "*State Rights, a Photograph from the Ruins of Ancient Greece*," powerfully affected the minds of patriots, and "*The Heroic Periods in a Nation's History*" welcomed home the returning veterans. The loss of his son-in-law, Colonel Elias Peissner, at Chancellorsville, kept the flame of his patriotism at white heat until the day of his death. Tayler Lewis loved his country with romantic ardor and an intensity of devotion rarely surpassed. He exercised great influence over S. G. Hamlin, the fearless editor of the *Schenectady Union*, many a time encouraging him to boldness and courage of utterance in the trying times that followed the war. Often at midnight, with quivering frame and flashing eyes, he would seek the young editor to cheer, encourage and provoke him to be equal to the political situation. Sallying out with his cane behind his back and thrust between the elbows, while his hands were clasped over his breast, he would pace the streets, meditating his argument or fulminating some thunderbolt which the next day would sway hearts or strike conviction. So do many people of our city remember Tayler Lewis, a venerable man, yet full of energy and fire, with long gray hair that fell over his collar, eyes deep-set that shot forth earnestness, slight body in long black coat of clerical cut, with meditative air and walk, in speech and in writing closely approaching one's idea of a prophet of the old times, yet of this century's garb and mien.

Let us glance at his life as a scholar and Christian. Born in Northumberland, Saratoga County, N. Y., March 27, 1802, he prepared for Union College under Dr. Proudfit, and was graduated at Union College in 1820. He studied law with Judge S. A. Foot, in Albany, and commenced practice at Fort Miller in 1824. He was not,

however, in his natural element, and took greater pleasure in the study of the classics. Under the influence of Rev. George Mair, he began the study of Hebrew, following it up with absorbed delight. Turning aside from law to letters, he became principal of the Academy at Waterford in 1833. He married on May 18th of the same year. He spent two years (1837-39) in Ogdensburg, and was called to the Chair of Greek in the University of New York. In 1849, after the delivery of an address, "Faith, the Life of Science," before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Union College, he was made Professor of Greek at his Alma Mater's home, and henceforth resided in Schenectady. Later, he filled the Chair of Oriental Biblical Literature, retaining this position until his death. Space does not allow us to speak in detail of Professor Lewis' attainments as a scholar, nor of his versatility, accomplishments, native ability or literary achievements, except as they have a bearing on local history. In early life he became a member, in full communion, of the Reformed Dutch Church, and so continued until the last. As an elder he attended her consistory and class meetings. His seat in the First Reformed Church in Schenectady was on the west side, near the Bancker screen. In this church, in front of the pulpit, now stands a memorial baptismal font, in dark red marble, erected chiefly by his fellow-members of the Old Testament Company of Bible Revision. It is inscribed, near the base: "Tayler Lewis. In Memoriam. Ab. Amicis Multis. In pacem. May 11th, 1877." His favorite text—"I know that my Redeemer liveth"—is incised in Hebrew characters on the polished rim of the bowl.

An eager and life-long student, Tayler Lewis was a master of many subjects. In the higher mathematics, in astronomy, music, philosophy and languages, he was at home, and used his attainments as instruments of pleasure. With the Greek and Latin he was as familiar as with his mother tongue, and in the Semitic languages he had no superior in America, while in Arabic he was without a peer. Among the revisers of the Old Testament he was, except Dr. Strong, the only layman in attendance at the sessions. In the work on Lange's Commentary he was selected by Dr. Schaff to furnish the introduction and notes on Genesis, and the metrical versions of Job and Ecclesiastes. His "Six Days of Creation" was a true epoch-maker, and anticipated by a whole generation the current interpretation of the first chapter of Genesis. Despite an avalanche of hostile criticism it emerged scathless, and is now recognized as a masterpiece of sound argument and prophetic utterance. It is still printed.

Omnivorous in his tastes, Tayler Lewis fed his mind in all fields of literature, and sought recreation, not in bodily exercises, but in intellectual variety. He enjoyed fun, humor, caricature, and refreshed himself with light literature. A bundle of books for a morning's reading in vacation time, in Jackson's garden, might include his Hebrew Bible, Syriac New Testament, The Arabian Nights in the original Arabic, Romola, and a novel or two from

the press of yesterday. In his last sickness, amid the agonies of sciatica, he would conquer pain by absorbing his mind in working out profound mathematical problems. He was a profound and brilliant Christian scholar, who, if not always in accord with the spirit of the age, was ever in harmony with the spirit of the ages.

On the dome of the Memorial Hall of Union College, in Hebrew and Latin letters, chosen and actually wrought in the slate-work by Taylor Lewis himself, is the motto which illustrates the great scholar's life principles :

The time is short,
The work is vast,
The reward is great,
The Master is pressing.

ISAAC W. JACKSON was born at Cornwall, Orange County, N. Y., August 28, 1804. Both of his parents were members of the Society of Friends. He was sent in his seventeenth year to the Albany Academy; completed his studies there with the highest honors; entered Union College, where he attained high standing in the classics, and from which, in 1826, in his twenty-second year, he graduated with the first honors in mathematics and chemistry. He was at once appointed a tutor in the college.

During his collegiate course he founded and maintained a society for social and literary purposes. In succeeding years other like associations were formed, and hence Union College has been called the mother of the Greek-letter societies of the country. He was promoted to be professor of mathematics in Union College in 1831. He published books on trigonometry, optics, conic sections and mechanics, which were adopted in American colleges, and in one important British institution.

As an executive officer of the college, he was prompt, energetic, ever-watchful, selecting his measures judiciously, and pursuing them with discretion. In his general intercourse he was social and genial. He was always neatly and simply attired; slight in form, well built and active, with clear, piercing eyes looking out from under a large and prominent brow; his head finely developed; his voice frank and friendly.

The science and art of horticulture were the delight and solace of his life. Valuable works on this subject made up a large part of his library. His life centered in, and was mainly bound by, his college. It was passed in his family circle, his study, his class-room, or with members of the faculty. He was always sympathetic, especially so with the sorrowing and the needy. Professor Henry, late of the Smithsonian Institution, who was his fellow student in boyhood, and his life-long correspondent, said that he was "the truest and most generous soul he ever knew." Fulfilling the duties of his position ably, faithfully, contentedly, no achievements of wealth or fame could have brought him wider usefulness or higher happiness. Thousands of the educated men of the country attest their gratitude for his aid in the development of mind and character.

In 1876 Professor Jackson had completed a term of service in the college of fifty years. This event was made the occasion of a notable tribute of respect from his friends and former pupils. It was on this occasion that Dr. Tayler Lewis delivered one of his most remarkable addresses.

The titles of Professor Jackson's publications are: 1, Elements of Conic Sections; 2, Elementary Treatise on Optics; 3, Elementary Treatise on Mechanics. The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him by Hobart College. His death took place July 28, 1877.

JOHN FOSTER, now the senior professor of Union College, was born August 18, 1811, at Hebron, Washington County, N. Y. His parents were Scotch-Irish. His earliest schooling was at the county district school of Hebron. In the winters of 1828, 1829 and 1830 he taught in the district schools of Argyle and Salem, and in the summers pursued his studies of Latin and Greek under the Rev. James Irvine, of Hebron. In the spring of 1831 he went to the academy at Fairfield, Herkimer County. Here he studied mathematics and classics till the close of the summer term of 1832, after which he became an assistant in the academy. He entered the junior class of Union College in 1834, and graduated July, 1835. He resumed teaching at the Fairfield Academy even before his graduation, and continued during the following year, teaching almost all branches, and working about ten hours daily.

In the fall of 1836 Mr. Foster was appointed tutor in Union College, and was placed in charge of the building called West College. The freshman and sophomore classes were domiciled at this building, and Tutor Foster's duty was to look after these two classes. For about a year he held this place, and then, having an offer to take charge of the North Pearl Street Academy for Boys in Albany, he spent about a year in this work; but in the winter of 1838 he returned to Union College, and took charge again of West College. He had classes in algebra, geometry, trigonometry and conic sections, and besides this he taught classes in Latin and Greek. After the death of Professor Edward Savage in 1840, Mr. Foster was appointed Adjunct-Professor of Natural Philosophy, and gave instructions in the "Cambridge Mechanics." Soon after he began to give lectures to voluntary classes on electricity, magnetism, galvanism, electro-magnetism and acoustics. These subjects were subsequently added to the regular course, and on these Professor Foster has continued to give lectures. He also issued for the use of his classes a syllabus of his lectures, which forms a text-book on the subject. About 1842 Professor Foster organized a voluntary class, to whom he taught astronomy and surveying and leveling. This led to the establishment in 1845 of the Department of Civil Engineering, to which Professor W. M. Gillespie was appointed.

In the spring of 1867 Professor Foster visited Europe. He visited the Universities of Bonn, Heidelberg, Munich and Zurich, and spent consid-

erable time at Paris. After his return he devoted himself to building up the scientific apparatus of his department. He obtained from the graduates of the college, mostly his old students, about \$5,000, which he spent in the purchase of apparatus. He visited Europe again in 1874, authorized by the Board of Trustees to expend \$6,000 in physical apparatus. He visited the principal workshops of London and Paris, making selections and giving orders. After an extended tour he returned with such a variety of new and useful apparatus as to place the collection of Union College among the best in the country.

Among the students who have passed under his instruction he has a reputation as a teacher of unusual force. Being himself a man of great industry, he expects and usually secures a large amount of good work from his pupils. He is genial in his temperament, and kind-hearted and ready to advise and help those who come to him. Professor Foster was made Doctor of Laws in 1872 by the University of the City of New York.

JONATHAN PEARSON, A.M., is by lineage an alien to the Dutch community whose annals he has so diligently explored. His descent can be traced through seven generations from the Puritan Fathers of New England.

At some time previous to 1643, John Pearson, an English carpenter, settled in the town of Rowley, Essex County, Mass. There he erected a fulling mill, and became the first manufacturer of cloth in the infant colony. He was evidently a substantial and leading citizen. He died near the close of the century. The family record for two hundred years, with its scriptural names, reads like a genealogical chapter in the Old Testament.

Caleb Pearson, the grandfather of Professor Pearson, served through the revolutionary war. After its close he settled in Chichester, N. H., where, February 23, 1813, Jonathan was born. When he was 18 years of age his father removed to Schenectady, N. Y. Jonathan had previously secured a preparatory education at Dover, Pembroke, and New Hampton, in the vicinity of his former home. In January, 1832, he entered Union College, and graduated with honor in 1835. The following year he was appointed tutor, and in 1839 Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy. In 1849 he was elected Professor of Natural History, and in 1873 was transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Botany, where he still serves. Thus, for more than half a century his life has been incorporated with the life of his Alma Mater.

In addition to the work of his department of instruction, other onerous and responsible duties have devolved upon him. Since 1854 he has been Treasurer of the College, having in charge its varied and intricate financial interests. For years he has also held the office of Librarian, and has devoted a vast amount of time and labor to the puzzling and petty details of that trying vocation. The preparation of the general catalogue of the college has always devolved upon him, and he has repaid the affectionate esteem of thousands of alumni by

maintaining a constant interest in their individual fortunes. His mind is an encyclopedia of facts concerning the sons of Old Union. His diverse services is sufficient proof of his versatility and tireless industry.

His antiquarian researches have been the recreations of a busy life. The task of exploring the scattered and puzzling records of the Dutch families who founded the settlements at Albany and along the Mohawk Valley was one of unusual difficulty. He continued his labors in this field through many years. He first transcribed, translated, and collated the records of the Dutch Church in Schenectady. Having mastered the provincial dialect, he performed a similar work upon the records of the Dutch Church in Albany, and also of the County Clerk's Office. The results of these studies, and others of a like character, are embodied in his histories of the old families of Schenectady and Albany, published years ago, and to some extent in this history.

It would be indelicate, in a sketch published during the lifetime of Professor Pearson, to refer to those incidents which belong more especially to his private and domestic life, or to those qualities which have endeared him to his more intimate personal friends. He has been for many years a faithful and active member of the Baptist Church, trusted and revered by all. As a son, a husband, and a father, his relations have been too tender and sacred to permit of comment here. Those who may survive him, and have shared and prized his friendship, will wonder that they did not prize it more, when the genial and unobtrusive presence lives only in memory or immortal hope.

PRINTERS AND NEWSPAPERS.

The first printers in Schenectady were Cornelius P. Wyckoff and ——— Brokaw, about the year 1792. Their office was on the south corner of State and Washington streets. This firm continued until 1795, when Brokaw went out and Wyckoff continued the business alone.

The first newspaper printed in Schenectady was called

The Mohawk Mercury. It was published as early as February, 1796, and as late as 1798. It was probably started by C. P. Wyckoff, who published it as late as December, 1797. Some time, probably in 1798, Wyckoff was succeeded in his business by John L. Stevenson. Whether Stevenson continued to publish the *Mohawk Mercury* is not known.

The Schenectady Gazette began to be published by J. L. Stevenson, January 6, 1799, on the corner of Albany (State) and Ferry streets, and December 20, 1802, he gave it the more comprehensive name of

The Western Spectator and Schenectady Weekly Advertiser, which was continued as late as May 23, 1807, when he removed his printing office to Union street, a few doors west of the Dutch Church, and discontinued the paper.

The Western Budget was issued by Van Veghten & Son, at No. 10 Union street, the next month following the discontinuance of the *Western Spectator*. The *Budget* continued three years, and the last year was issued by Isaac Riggs, and at about the same time, June, 1807, Ryer S. Schermerhorn began the publication of

The Mohawk Advertiser, and continued it at least three years, and was succeeded by T. Johnson, who published it for W. S. Buel, at his bookstore, near the corner of State and Ferry streets. Schermerhorn was the first *native* printer, and followed his trade for many years. He kept a small supply of books on sale at his office, and among publications which he issued was an edition of Smith's History of the State of New York, with additions.

The Western Budget was continued by Isaac Riggs until June, 1810, when he changed the name to the

Schenectady Cabnet. In 1814 Isaac Stevens was associated with him for a short time, occupying No. 2 Cook's Row (No. 34), Ferry street. Thence he removed to No. 23 Union street, next east of the Dutch Church, which he occupied until his death as a dwelling, and for many years his printing office was under the same roof. In 1837 he was succeeded by his son, Stephen S. Riggs, who changed the name of the *Cabnet* to

Freedom's Sentinel, under which name he continued the paper until January, 1843, when he resumed the former name, calling the paper the

Schenectady Cabnet and Freedom's Sentinel, which name it bore until January 1, 1850, when it was again called the *Schenectady Cabnet*, and until it ceased to be published January 1, 1856.

The Miscellaneous Cabinet, a weekly publication of eight pages octavo, was begun in July, 1823, Isaac Riggs, printer. The first twenty-four numbers are in Union College Library. Its contents were mainly literary selections, and original productions written mostly by the students of the college.

The Mohawk Sentinel was begun June 24, 1824. It was printed by G. Ritchie, Jr., at the sign of Faust and Franklin's head, Ferry street, and is said to have been edited by Archibald L. Linn, then a young lawyer of the city. This paper advocated the election of Mr. Crawford for the Presidency.

The Protestant Sentinel began June 11, 1830, and was printed and published by Rev. John Maxon, at No. 39 State street (now 64 and 66). It continued there but a few years and then removed elsewhere. It was understood to be the organ of the Seventh-day Baptist denomination.

Schenectady County Whig.—This paper was commenced November 1, 1830, at 34 Ferry street, by C. G. & A. Palmer, and continued till October, 1834, when the paper and all the appurtenances of the printing office were sold to Nathan Stone, who, on the 18th of November following, assigned the paper to Giles F. Yates, Esq.

Stone was the owner of the "Schenectady Bookstore," on the west corner of State street and Mill lane. He published the *Whig*, at 77 State street, for ten weeks, the last number being issued December 30th. Its direct descendant was

The Reflector and Schenectady Democrat, the first number of which was issued January 1, 1835. Mr. Yates made this a very entertaining family paper. During 1835-6 he published many valuable articles of an antiquarian and historical character. It was printed by Robert P. Paine, on the west corner of State street and Mill lane. In July, 1835, the printing was done by Yates & Cook, the latter being associated with G. F. Yates. July 1, 1838, E. H. Kincaid became proprietor of the *Reflector* for the next three and a half years, when, February 5, 1841, Abraham A. Keyser purchased it at the commencement of Vol. VII., and David Cady Smith was associated with him as editor.

The Schenectady and Saratoga Standard was published about the year 1833, at 96 Washington street, by Israel Sackett, printer, with Thomas Jefferson Sutherland, attorney at law, No. 14 Ferry street, as editor. Its principles were anti-masonic. After the first year the name was changed to *The Saratoga and Schenectady Standard*, and it was published in Ballston by the same printer.

The Wreath, "devoted to polite literature," was commenced November 22, 1834, by William H. Burleigh, proprietor and editor; Isaac Riggs, printer. It was a half-monthly of forty pages, and was issued about six months. During this time its name was changed to *The Literary Journal*, "a repository of public literature and fine arts." It was published in Albany, Troy and Schenectady, and numbered consecutively with the *Wreath*, and continued until June, 1835, perhaps a little longer. The articles were chiefly original.

The Mohawker was published by Riggs & Norris in 1835.

The Schenectady Star was published by Jesse & Daniel Stone, and this partnership was dissolved in October, 1835.

The Antiquarian and General Review, a monthly magazine, mainly of a religious character, edited and published by Rev. Wm. Arthur (father of President Arthur), was begun in 1845 and continued two years, making two thin octavo volumes.

Freeman's Banner, a political paper, was published during the presidential campaign of 1848. It was the organ of the party known as the "Barn-burners." It was edited and published by Judge Platt Potter.

The Daily Ancient City was the first daily paper issued in this city, and commenced in 1852 by Mr. Riggs. It lived only a few months.

The Schenectady Democrat was begun January 3, 1854, by William H. Coulbourne and W. N. Clark. In 1857 it was sold to A. J. Thompson, and in April, 1859, to Cyrus Thayer, and united with the *Reflector* October, 1860. The united paper was called *The Schenectady Reflector and*

Democrat. It was published in 1864 at No. 134 State street.

The Morning Star was the first successful daily established in this city. Its first issue appeared February 24, 1855. It was edited and published by Walter N. Clark and Wm. M. Colbourne. September 17th of the same year its time of issue was changed from morning to evening and was called the *Evening Star*. March 5, 1857, the firm of Colborne & Clark was dissolved, and Mr. Colborne took entire charge. During this year Isaac M. Gregory, now managing editor of the *New York Graphic*, was associated with Colbourne in editing this paper.

About 1861 Mr. Colborne sold the paper to H. L. Grose, of Ballston, who conducted it until 1863, when it was sold to Wm. D. Davis and Isaac M. Gregory. During the following year Mr. Gregory sold his interest to Davis, who continued proprietor till 1865, when the paper was sold to J. J. Marlette, under whose management it has remained ever since. Since 1876 the publishing department has been under the management of A. A. Marlette. Preceding its sale to Mr. Marlette the *Star* had been Republican in politics, but since its sale in 1865 it has been an organ of the Democratic party. In 1880, when the *Morning Gazette* was discontinued, that paper was purchased by the proprietor of the *Star*, and for a time the name *Schenectady Evening Star and Gazette* was assumed, but was soon after changed to the original name of the *Schenectady Evening Star*.

The Schenectady Republican, a weekly made out of the *Evening Star*, was commenced in September, 1857, by Wm. M. Colborne, with Judson S. Landon as editor.

The Schenectady Daily News was begun April, 1859, by I. W. Hoffman and E. F. Loveridge, and expired June, 1861.

The Railsplitter, a political weekly paper, was published a few months during the fall of 1860.

The Schenectady Daily Times was commenced January, 1861, and united with the *Evening Star*, in June of the same year, under the name of the *Schenectady Daily Evening Star and Times*, and was published in 1864 by W. D. Davis and Isaac M. Gregory, at No. 170 State street.

In 1865 Mr. Davis, who was then sole proprietor, sold it to J. J. Marlette.

The Schenectady Evening Star.—A history of the paper will be found in the account of *The Morning Star*.

The Schenectady Daily Union was started in November, 1865, by Charles Stanford. During the exciting political events of this period, the Republican party had no organ in this city, and this paper was started to meet this want. Col. S. G. Hamlin was long connected with it as managing editor, being succeeded by Welton Stanford; Orvil F. Vedder was managing editor from April, 1882, to October 31, 1883, when it was sold to John A. Sleicher. May 15, 1884, it was sold to its present publisher, George W. Cottrell.

The Dorpian was published in 1867. It was edited by A. A. Marlette and A. W. Kelly. Its publication was continued but a few months.

The Schenectady Gazette, a weekly paper, was begun in 1869 by W. N. Thayer. In 1872 James H. Wiseman and Harman Seymour were the publishers. In 1874 it was purchased by G. W. Marlette and Wm. H. Lee. Mr. Lee subsequently withdrew from the partnership, since which time it has been published by Mr. Marlette.

The Deutscher Anzeiger, a weekly, published in the German language, was commenced by Ernst Knauer, at 176 State street, August 22, 1873, and is still published by the original proprietor.

The Schenectady Daily Gazette was started by the proprietor of *The Weekly Gazette*, January 1, 1879, and ceased to be issued July 28, 1880, when it was sold and united with *The Schenectady Evening Star*.

The Schenectady Weekly Union, made out of *The Schenectady Daily Union*, was started in connection with the daily in 1865, and has been published ever since.

The Locomotive Firemen Monthly Journal was first published in 1872 under the direction of the International Union of Locomotive Engineers. It was edited by Henry Hoffman until 1878, when it was discontinued.

PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS FROM UNION COLLEGE.

The Floriad, published by the students of Union College in 1811. Vol. I., Nos. 1-15, is in the Boston Public Library.

The Students' Album, commenced in 1827, contained essays and tales, scientific items, and notices of new works. It was published half monthly by Isaac Riggs, at No. 10 Union street, and probably continued about six months. It was of 8° size, and each number contained 16 pp.

The Parthenon and Academician's Magazine. It began in 1832, and continued two years, forming two volumes 8°. Nine monthly numbers a year were issued.

The Censor was published from November, 1833, to May, 1834, one number each month, 8°.

The Union College Magazine was commenced in June, 1860, and was continued, with some interruptions, until June, 1875. It was published under the joint auspices of the Philomathian, Adelpic, and Theological Societies, two editors being appointed by each. It was a very creditable publication.

One number appeared each college session, or three a year. In the third year there was begun a series of portraits, one in each number, of distinguished men once connected with the college.

The College Spectator, a monthly publication, 4°, began April, 1872, and continued until December, 1875.

The Concoriensis succeeded the *Spectator* in November, 1877, and now continues.

The Scroll began its publication in 1849. In May, 1850, its form was made smaller.

Several other fugitive publications, such as *The Unionian*, etc., have been issued from time to time, but soon ceased.

J. J. MARLETTE, editor of *The Evening Star and Weekly Reflector*, was born in Onondaga County, N. Y., in 1822, and received his education at district schools. He came to this county in 1837, and to the city in 1852. He became connected with the *Star* in 1865. He has always taken a deep interest in public education and was for many years a leading member of the Board of Education of the city.

LOUIS C. BEATTIE was born in Chicago, Ill., November 9, 1856, removing to Schenectady in 1864. He received his education at public schools and Union College, and was admitted to the Bar in 1877. He then followed his profession in New York, returning to Schenectady in 1883, since which time he has been on the staff of *The Daily Union* and *The Evening Star*. Gifted with keen perception and a ready pen, his work is highly valuable.

MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

The first medical society of the county of Schenectady was organized in Schenectady, June 11, 1810.

The society was formed under an act passed by the Legislature of New York, April 4, 1806, entitled "An act to incorporate medical societies for the purposes of regulating the practice of physic and surgery." The physicians and surgeons of each county of the State being thus empowered to join themselves into societies, those of this county met on the day first above given and enacted their by-laws and regulations. Under such, the society was to consist of a "President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and not less than three nor more than five Censors, to be chosen by ballot annually at the anniversary meeting of the society." The president was "to preside at all meetings, preserve order, put all questions, declare the decisions of the society, and in case of an equal division shall have the casting vote; he shall also appoint all committees, unless the society choose to appoint them by special resolution."

Article 5th provided that the "Censors shall meet whenever notified * * * to examine all students in Anatomy, Physiology, Surgery, Midwifery, Materia Medica, Pharmacy, Theory and Practice of Physic and Chemistry." Not less than three censors to form such examining board.

By article 6th, the stated meetings of the society were to be held on the "second Tuesday in June, September, December and March," at 10 o'clock A. M. Special meetings could be held though at any time "when the President, at the request of two of the members, shall order the Secretary to send to each member a notification" of the intention of such meeting. Not less than five members constituted a quorum. A student, successful in his examinations before the Censors, received, upon

the payment of two dollars, and signing the declaration prescribed by the State Medical Society, his diploma. It cost one dollar to become a member, and the annual dues were two dollars, payable quarterly, and for non-attendance at the stated meetings a fine of \$1.00 was levied.

We quote article 12th, as follows: "Any member who shall be convicted of base or dishonorable practices, tending to bring dishonor on himself or the profession, shall be expelled." From this it is uncertain whether "convicted" applied to a regular trial and conviction by civic or military authority, or whether it concerned only such "dishonorable practices" as could be adjudicated by the original society.

To these by-laws and regulations the following names are signed: Thos. Dunlap, Dan'l J. Toll, Alex. G. Fonda, Cornl Vrooman, Robt. M. G. Walmsley, Abraham D'Lamater, John Wood, Dan'l McDougall, P. B. Noxon (?), J. J. Berkley, E. B. Sprague, J. W. Conklin, Stephen Remington, Jno. B. Judson, Arch'd W. Adams, David Low, Joseph Koon, J. C. Magoffin, John S. L. Tonelier, Benj. F. Joslin, Edw'd H. Wheeler, Abram W. Van Woert, Edgar Fonda, A. J. Prime, Andrew Truax, L. Sprague, James Chandler, Orasmus Squire (living 1885), A. M. Vedder, Benj'n Weeks, John S. Crawford, N. Marselis, J. Stackpole, Edwin A. Young.

As we have stated, the society was organized June 10, 1810. Its first meeting was held the next day "at the Court Room," and Archibald H. Adams was elected President; William Anderson, Vice-President; Alexander G. Fonda, Secretary; and Dr. Corns. Vrooman, Treasurer; Doctors Thomas Dunlap, Alexander G. Fonda, and Corns. Vrooman were the Committee upon the Code of Laws, and it was resolved that they meet "annually, the second Tuesday in June, at 2 o'clock P. M., in the Court Room, * * * which time shall forever thereafter be the anniversary meeting" of the society. Adjournment was had until the following day, when the Code of Laws was adopted, and Doctors Vrooman, Anderson, Dunlap, Daniel Toll and Abram Delamater were elected Censors. Daniel McDougall was "unanimously chosen as a suitable person to attend the lectures in the City of New York on the different branches of medicine." An adjournment was then taken until September 11, 1810. This quarterly meeting was held at the "House of James Rogers, innkeeper." Joseph F. Yates was examined and admitted to practice Physic and Surgery, and Drs. Toll, Fonda and Dunlap were appointed a committee to revise the by-laws, to report at the next quarterly meeting to be held December 10, to which time adjournment was then taken, and on that date the society met at the house of Dr. Vrooman. The committee upon the revision reported, and their report ratified. Dr. Archibald H. Adams was elected a delegate to the State Society, and Christopher T. Fonda examined and admitted to practice.

At a special meeting, held at the Court House, March 19, 1811, Daniel J. Toll was elected Treasurer, in place of Cornelius Vrooman, deceased,

and Daniel McDougall became a member of the profession.

The first anniversary meeting "was held Tuesday, June 11, 1811, at 2 o'clock P. M., at the Court Room," and Daniel J. Toll elected President; Robert M. G. Walmsley, Vice-President; Alexander G. Fonda, Secretary; and Daniel J. Toll, Treasurer; and Doctors A. G. Fonda, Daniel J. Toll, R. M. G. Walmsley, Abram Delamater, and Thomas Dunlap, Censors; and Dr. Toll, a delegate to the State Society. Doctors Daniel McDougall, McClearg, Brown, Wood, and Christopher G. Fonda were proposed as members of the society.

At the anniversary held one year later, June 11, 1812, at the Court Room, Dr. Toll was elected President; Dr. Walmsley, Vice-President; and Dr. Fonda, Secretary and Treasurer; and Doctors Toll, Walmsley, Delamater, Fonda, and Wood, Censors. The gentlemen whose names were proposed at the last meeting were admitted as members, and Dr. A. G. Fonda was sent as delegate to the State Society. Doctors Jno. Dodge and Lyman Carpenter were proposed as members of the society.

The quarterly meeting was held at the Court Room, September 11, 1812, and Jno. Dodge and Lyman Carpenter elected members. The following addition to the Code was passed: "That no member of the society shall hold any nostrum or specific for the cure of a disease under the penalty of forfeiting his seat in the same." Doctors Ellis, Woodward, Devoe, Vought, Veeder, and Mynderse were proposed as members. The sum of \$3 was received from Dr. Toll "being the balance of licentiate fees on hand," and "Dr. Jno. Wood paid \$1 as an initiation fee."

A regular adjournment was then taken. From this time, up to 1825, the records of the society are lost, and nothing but a vague general legend of its doings is extant.

The minutes of a meeting held 31st January, 1825, that there were present Doctors Daniel J. Toll, the President; and Doctors Thomas Dunlap, James Magoffin, J. S. L. Tonelier, J. Schermerhorn, D. Low and Daniel McDougall. Dr. McDougall was appointed Secretary, and Dr. Magoffin a delegate to the State Society. Drs. Dunlap, Low and McDougall were appointed as a committee to revise the by-laws, to report at the next anniversary meeting, which was held June 14, 1825, at the house of Harvey Davis. Angus McDermid appears to have then been a member. The report of the committee appointed 31st January, 1825, was adopted. Thomas Dunlap was elected President; James Magoffin, Treasurer; and Dr. McDougall, Secretary. Drs. Dunlap, Magoffin, McDougall, G. Wade (whose name first appears here), and Peter Delamater were elected Censors.

A meeting of two of the Censors, Dunlap and Magoffin, was held in April, 1826, when Dr. Cole was given his diploma, and at a subsequent meeting, held in November, Wade and McDougall being also present as Censors, Dr. Chamberlin was admitted to practice.

Frederick Orlop received his diploma from the Censors in June, 1827.

A period of six years now elapsed, of which no record appears. February 25, 1833, the Censors, Drs. Dunlap, Magoffin and McDougall, met, and Edward H. Wheeler successfully passed an examination. There were two meetings of the Censors in 1834—March 23d, when Andrew Truax received his diploma, and July 23d, when Joseph Harman received his. It does not seem that the society met again during this year until September 9th, when the following new members were present: B. F. Joslin, J. Coon, E. H. Wheeler. A committee of three, Joslin, Magoffin and McDougall was made to revise the By-laws, to report at the next quarterly meeting. Alexander G. Fonda was sent as delegate to the State Society, and a contribution of five dollars was made by them to it.

The committee appointed in September reported at the next anniversary meeting, held June 9, 1835. Among the amendments suggested, and at once adopted, was: that the officers annually elected should hold until their successors should be elected; that the President should, at the meeting one year after his election, "deliver to the society a dissertation upon some appropriate subject," and the fee for a diploma was raised from two to five dollars. At this meeting Andrew Truax, A. J. Prime and Orsamus Squire became members; and Dr. Dunlap was elected President; Dr. Magoffin, Vice-President; Dr. Prime, Secretary; and Dr. McDougall, Treasurer; and as Censors, Drs. Dunlap, Magoffin, Squire, McDermid and McDougall. The new meeting, or attempted meeting, is best described in the words of Dr. A. J. Prime, its Secretary: "June 14, 1836. When the members gathered together, not enough stayed long enough to form a quorum. Drs. Magoffin, Dunlap, McDougall and Prime, after waiting till the hour was expired, thought it was for their own private and others' interests to absquatulate, and therefore decamped. A. J. Prime, Secretary." Dr. Edgar Fonda received his diploma from the Censors January 31, 1837, and at a special meeting of the Society, held in the City Hall, July 18, 1837, G. E. Fonda, A. W. Van Woert, William N. Duane, J. Harman, J. Beakeley and J. B. Noxon were elected members. At the next anniversary meeting, held at the City Hall, June 12, 1838, Dr. J. B. Noxon was elected President; Joseph Koon, Vice; Andrew Truax, Secretary; Wm. N. Duane, Treasurer; and Magoffin, Squire, Beakeley and Noxon, Censors. The customary committee on revision of the by-laws was appointed, consisting of Drs. Koon, Beakeley and Truax. Andrew Huyck and James Chandler received their diplomas from the Censors, June 25, 1838; and at a meeting of the Society, December 11th, Dr. Sprague was elected a member. The anniversary meeting of 1839 was held the second Tuesday in June, at the City Hall. Alex. M. Vedder, John O. Crawford, James Chandler and Benjamin Weeks were elected members, and James C. Magoffin, President; A. G. Fonda, Vice; Edgar Fonda, Secretary; and Andrew

Truax, Treasurer; and Drs. Dunlap, Magoffin, L. Sprague, McDougall and A. M. Vedder, Censors. James C. Magoffin was sent as delegate to the State Society.

The anniversary meeting, held at the City Hall the second Tuesday of June, 1840, proved, as far as the records show, to be the last wherein business of importance was done. On motion of Jacob Beakeley, it was "Resolved, That it is proper to charge the sum of one dollar, and not less than fifty cents, for visit and medicine in ordinary cases;" and, on motion of A. M. Vedder, it was resolved, "That a committee of three be appointed for the purpose of regulating the charges of physicians, whose duty it shall be to report at the next quarterly meeting." A. M. Vedder, J. Beakeley and Sprague were appointed to deliver a dissertation at the next meeting. The President was also directed to deliver an annual address, or pay a fine of one dollar. Dr. Magoffin was elected President; A. M. Vedder, Vice; J. Chandler, Secretary; Andrew Truax, Treasurer; and Dunlap, Sprague, Magoffin, Young and Beakeley, Censors.

The last anniversary held under the old organization, of which there is any written record, was the one held June 8, 1841, at the Court House. By resolution, the officers then holding were directed to hold over for another year. Judging by the minutes, internal dissensions began to make themselves felt at this time. It is not our province to enter into their merits or demerits. The society soon ceased, practically, to have an existence. For twenty-eight years there was no regular organized medical society in Schenectady. In the *Daily Union* of January 16, 1869, there appeared a call for a meeting of physicians and surgeons to organize a medical society. In furtherance of this design, January 19th, at the Cadey House, the following-named gentlemen appeared: A. M. Vedder, L. Ellwood, J. D. Jones, Charles Hammer, N. S. Cheeseman, B. A. Mynderse, G. W. Van Voast, Robert Fuller and Wm. N. Duane; and the society formed by the election of A. M. Vedder, President; J. D. Jones, Vice; L. Ellwood, Secretary; N. S. Cheeseman, Treasurer; and G. W. Van Voast, B. A. Mynderse and A. M. Vedder, Censors.

Dr. Vedder was sent as delegate to the State Society. The membership fee was fixed at \$2, and in order to become a member, it was necessary to submit the diploma to the Censors for examination.

The title of the society, as shown by its by-laws, adopted January 11, 1870, is "The Schenectady County Medical Society." Annual meetings are held the second Tuesday of every January, and semi-annual meetings the second Tuesday of June. Special meetings may be called. From the time of its organization it has been in a healthy condition, and bids fair to outnumber in members, years of life and usefulness, any of its predecessors. In addition to those present at its first meeting, January 19, the following joined during the same year: Alex. Ennis, N. G. Daggett, Geroe Greene and Andrew Veeder.

The officers for the present year (1885) are: M. G. Planck, President; Geo. E. McDonald, Vice-President; Chas. C. Duryee, Secretary; J. L. Schoolcraft, Treasurer; Censors, E. P. Van Epps, J. Reagles and H. V. Hull.

The delegate to the State Society is L. Ellwood, and to the "American Medical," H. C. Van Zandt.

The members, past and present are: Brumma-ghen, Peter A., Mariaville; Cheeseman, N. S., Scotia; Clute, W. T., Schenectady; Daggett, N. G., Schenectady; DeLamater, S. G., Duaneburgh; Duryee, Chas. C., Schenectady; Ellwood, L., Schenectady; Ennis, Alexander, Pattersonville; Featherstonhaugh, T. (left city), Schenectady; Fuller, Robert, Schenectady; Greene, Geroe (dead), Schenectady; Hammer, Charles, Schenectady; Hill, John (dead), Quaker street; Hoag, Peter C. (left city), Schenectady; Hull, H. V., Schenectady; Johnson, T. B. (dead), Schenectady; Jones, J. D. (dead), Schenectady; Mackay, John P., Schenectady; McDonald, Geo. E., Schenectady; Munderse, B. A., Schenectady; Pearson, W. L., Schenectady; Perkins, Maurice, Schenectady; Planck, M. G., Schenectady; Roach, Paul, Quaker street; Rowe, George (left city), Bramans's Corners; Reagles, James R., Schenectady; Steinfühner, G. A. F., Schenectady; Schoolcraft, J. L., Schenectady; Van Voast, G. W., Schenectady; Van Zandt, H. C., Schenectady; Veeder, A. T., Schenectady; Vedder, A. M. (dead), Schenectady; Van Epps, E. P., Schenectady; Vedder, L. T., Schenectady; Van Patten, John, U. (dead), Schenectady; White-horne, E. E. (left city), Schenectady; Young, Edwin, West Glenville.

Among the leading physicians of the city not previously mentioned are:

JOHN KASTENDIECK, M.D., graduated from the New York Homœopathic Medical College in 1878. He located in Schenectady in 1882.

JAMES DUANE JONES, M.D., who deserves special mention, was born in Schenectady, January 20, 1828. His ancestors, both paternal and maternal, were among the earliest settlers of Long Island and New York City. He graduated from Union College in 1846, and from the Albany Medical College in 1849. He then went to the Seaman's Retreat Hospital, Staten Island, remaining there for three years, 1849-51, coming to Schenectady, and entering upon his practice in 1851. He was married in 1872 to Anna M. Bigelow, daughter of John M. Bigelow, of Schenectady. In 1873 he became a member of the County Medical Society. Was city physician, and physician to the County Alms-house, and during General Sheridan's Virginia campaign he served as surgeon-in-chief to the 25th New York Cavalry.

Dr. Jones' professional career was marked by that success which close attention, allied with natural aptitude, always commands. While a leading physician, nature had made him a fine surgeon, and to that he willingly devoted the greater portion of his time. Dr. Jones died December 31, 1879, his wife surviving him.

LIVINGSTON ELLWOOD, M.D.

Among Schenectady's numerous skillful and honored physicians, no medical practitioner is better or more favorably known than the gentleman whose name heads this brief biographical sketch.

Dr. Ellwood was born at Minden, Montgomery County, N. Y., on the twentieth day of July, 1825. After acquiring his education, he engaged in the study of medicine and surgery, and graduated from the Medical Department of the Buffalo University in 1848, at the age of twenty-three years.

He did not long delay the beginning of that which was destined to be his successful life-work, for we find him in August, 1849, a new-comer in Schenectady, where he soon established himself in practice, and entered upon a career which has marked him as a man of energy, perseverance, business ability, and high scholastic and professional attainments.

As a physician he gradually, but surely, rose high in the esteem of the public and his professional brethren. He was one of the originators and a charter member of the Schenectady County Medical Society, in the deliberations and management of which he has ever since been conspicuously active. His knowledge of his profession and its requirements is thorough and of broad scope; he has often been called in counsel with physicians of undoubted eminence in very difficult and important cases, and from time to time he has prepared valuable and interesting papers upon topics of deep interest to the medical profession.

During the more than thirty-six years of Dr. Ellwood's residence in Schenectady, he has closely identified himself with the best interests of the city and county. That such a man has been called to places of public trust, is only an evidence of the good judgment of his fellow citizens. Dr. Ellwood has served as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Schenectady County, has represented his Ward as Alderman, and has been prominently identified with the Boards of Health and Education. He has also served as both City and County Physician.

Heartly, but unostentatious in manner, he speaks with moderation and to the point. His fidelity is undoubted, and his circle of personal friends is wide, embracing many of the most prominent physicians and citizens of this section of the State.

LEWIS FAUST, M.D., graduated from Wallace College, Berea, O., and from the New York Homœopathic Medical College. He is a member and an ex-president of the Montgomery County Homœopathic Medical Society, and of the New York State Homœopathic Medical Society.

GEORGE L. VAN ALLEN, M.D., 134 Centre street, was born in Bethlehem, Albany County, in 1851; graduated from the medical department of Union University; practiced his profession in Galway, Saratoga County, and Albion, Orleans County; has traveled and studied in Europe. Located in Schenectady in 1882, and makes a specialty of

the treatment of chronic diseases and diseases of women.

PIONEER PHYSICIANS.

Rynier Schaets, in the year 1681, was a practicing "chirurgion" in Schenectady, though Pieter Van der Linde, or Van O'Linda, was a surgeon in North America in 1639, and by some it is thought was here about 1640, but of this there is nothing positively known. October 18, 1703, Jacobus V. Dyck petitioned for the right to practice surgery here, and from 1758 to 1767, Dr. Dirk Van Ingen was in regular practice.

From 1764 to 1788, Dr. Spitzer (de Spitzer). In 1773, Dr. William Constable is "said to have been a surgeon to a British regiment sent over in the French wars." He died in New York. His son, John Constable, lived in Schenectady many years. A widow of Dr. John Constable, "formerly of this city," was buried in St. George's Church Cemetery in 1805. From 1779 to 1781, Dr. Onger was "the hessen docktor." In 1780 Dr. William Mead was practicing surgery. He was a surgeon in the revolution, and died in Schenectady Feb. 1, 1829, aged 80 years. In 1784 he was in possession of the McCamus & Co. lot on State street, which was afterward owned by Dr. William Adams. Dr. William Adams practiced here in 1785 and subsequently. His sons, Dr. Alex. Hamilton Adams, died April 1811, aged forty-two years, and Dr. James Adams died April 20, 1803. They both practiced in this city. Dr. Cornelius W. Vander Heuvel was a physician from 1747 to 1797, dying two years later. Dr. Stringer, of Albany, at about this time visited patients here, and in 1795, Dr. John Constable occupied the house afterwards owned by Dr. Wm. Duane in Union street. In 1799 Peter Mabree was a "practitioner of physic." Dr. Rogers lived here in 1800. Dr. William Anderson and Dr. Joseph W. Hegeman were partners here for some years previous and including 1811. In that year Dr. Anderson, while on his return passage from New Orleans, died with yellow fever. Dr. Hegeman removed to Cincinnati a few years subsequently, and in 1827 to Vicksburg, where he died in 1837. Cornelius Vrooman, son of Simon Vrooman, was born here, and for a few years previous to his death, which occurred in 1811, when he was but thirty years of age, followed his profession.

DENTISTRY.

O. J. GROSS began the study of dentistry in 1875 at Great Falls, N. H., and received the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1879 at the Dental College, Philadelphia, Pa. He came to Schenectady in 1880, and resides at 235½ State street.

B. F. CARMICHAEL, dentist, established himself at 37 Union street in 1878, and has had a successful and increasing practice.

Among other dentists deserving special notice for extensive and well-merited practice, are Dr. F. D. F. Gray, Dr. John B. Hull and Dr. D. R. Smith.

BANKS.

MOHAWK BANK.—Among the first banks organized in this State was the Mohawk Bank of Schenectady. In 1807 a special act of the legislature was passed to incorporate the stockholders of this bank. At this date there were but a small number of banks in the State, and only two in the city of New York.

In the act of incorporation, James Constable, Henry Yates, Jr., Lewis Farquharson, Garret S. Veeder, Moses Beal and David Boyd were appointed a board of commissioners to open books on the first Tuesday in May, in which all persons willing to be associated for the purpose of establishing a bank were inscribed, together with the number of shares taken. The value of each share was ten dollars, and the number limited to twenty thousand.

On the second Tuesday of May of this same year, the stockholders elected the first board of directors, which consisted of thirteen members. Charles Kane was selected by the directors as the first president, and David Boyd as cashier.

It is impossible to ascertain the exact date when the bank was first opened for the transaction of business.

This bank was first located in a comparatively small building on the corner of Union and Church streets, on the site of the present Classical Institute building, a structure built by the bank in 18—, and used for banking purposes until 1852, when it was sold and converted into a private dwelling. In 1852 the bank was removed to the building on State street now occupied by J. H. Barhyte & Co. Here it was located until 1857, when its present building was erected at a cost of about \$15,000. This bank continued to do business, under its charter of 1807, until 1852, when it was reorganized under the general banking laws of 1837, with a capital of \$200,000. In 1859 the capital was reduced to \$100,000. In 1865 it was reorganized as a national bank, for a period of twenty years. Its charter expired this year (1885) and was extended by the Comptroller of the Currency to 1905. The following is a list of its various presidents and cashiers from 1807 :

Presidents : Charles Kane, James Duane, David Martin, John I. De Graff, D. D. Campbell, James R. Craig, G. G. Maxon.

Cashiers : David Boyd, William Walton, Edward Walton, Nicholas Swits, Charles Thompson.

SCHENECTADY BANK.—This bank was organized under a special charter in 1832 as a Safety Fund Bank, for a period of thirty years, with a capital of \$150,000. Its first directors were : Archibald Craig, Alonzo C. Paige, Samuel Cook, Ephraim Benedict, Benjamin F. Mumford, Jay Cady, Stephen Clark, Freeman Stanton, George McQueen, Judiah Ellsworth, Harvey Davis, Isaac I. Yates, and William Cunningham.

Its charter expiring in 1862, it was reorganized under the State banking laws, with a capital of \$100,000.

This bank was first located in a building on State street, near the corner of Church street. Here it continued to do business until 187—, when it was moved to its present location. Archibald Craig was its first president. He was followed by Jay Cady in 1842. In 1862 Simon C. Groot was made president. He was succeeded by William L. Goodrich in 1866, who remained in this position until 1869, when he was succeeded by Jay Cady, the latter remaining in this position until the election of Abraham A. Van Vorst in 1875, since which date Mr. Van Vorst has retained this position.

The first cashier was Thomas Palmer. He was succeeded in 1843 by William H. Palmer, who was succeeded in 1845 by William L. Goodrich. Mr. Goodrich remained in this position until 1866, when Samuel L. R. Buchanan was made cashier. He was succeeded in 1869 by William L. Goodrich, who has remained in this position ever since.

ABRAHAM A. VAN VORST.

ABRAHAM A. VAN VORST, President of the Schenectady Bank, was born in Glenville, Schenectady County, November 28, 1806. His father, Abraham F. Van Vorst, was a farmer, and, though also a native of Schenectady County, was of Holland descent. The progenitors of the Van Vorsts were three brothers, who emigrated to the Empire State in the early part of the last century. One of them settled in Brooklyn, where there was at that time a flourishing colony of his countrymen ; another located on the Hudson, near Kingston ; and the third, who was the immediate ancestor of Mr. Van Vorst's family, fixed upon Schenectady County as his future home. Inheriting the thrifty and industrious habits of their nation, they engaged in the cultivation of the soil, and, like their countrymen generally, soon accumulated a handsome competence as the result of their honorable labor. His mother was the daughter of Jacob Wallace, a native of New York, but of Scotch extraction.

Mr. Van Vorst pursued his studies at the district schools till he attained the age of seventeen, when, preferring a mercantile to an agricultural occupation, he entered, as clerk, a country store in Schenectady, and continued thus employed four years. Soon after attaining his majority, in 1828, he engaged in the hardware business in the same place, in company with Henry Peek, the firm being Peek & Van Vorst. This copartnership lasted until 1835, when the firm was dissolved, Mr. Van Vorst continuing the business on his own account until 1853. For a few years subsequently he was connected with the New York Central Railroad. In 1858 he became a member of the firm of Van Vorst, Vedder & Co., for the transaction of the lumber business, in which line of operations he continued until 1874, when he retired from the active duties of mercantile life.

Previously to 1845 Mr. Van Vorst had been elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Schenectady Bank, then a State bank. Upon its reorganization in 1862, he was elected its vice-president, and on the death of Jay Cady in 1875,



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Abm A Van Vorst

he succeeded to the office of president. This bank, one of the most flourishing financial organizations in the State, has a competent capital and also a surplus fund, and declares an average dividend of five per cent. semi-annually, clear of State and national taxes. Mr. Van Vorst is also vice-president of the Schenectady Savings Bank, a sound and prosperous institution. For nearly fifty years he has been connected with the vestry of St. George's Episcopal Church in Schenectady.

Though naturally averse to political preferment, Mr. Van Vorst has served as alderman for several terms, and as member of the County Democratic Committee, and was induced, through the persuasion of his party, to accept the nomination for mayor, to which important office he was elected, serving for the terms of 1853-54, 1869-70 and 1882-83. This responsibility he accepted very reluctantly, and only after the urgent appeal of his friends to his patriotism and his desire for the welfare of the community—those higher motives that influence men to the acceptance of public trusts. During the period of our civil war, Mr. Van Vorst was an active "war Democrat," upholding, by all the means in his power, the hands of the Government. He was for many years identified with the business interests of Schenectady, in which his thrifty and sterling habits made him a prominent mercantile character. Since 1862, his financial skill and conscientious management of monetary interests have been an important factor in the prosperity of that city. He was married in 1830 to Miss Amanda Hulbert, daughter of Dr. Hulbert, of Pennsylvania, who bore him one son and three daughters (all of whom are living), and died in 1880, six months after the celebration of their golden wedding. Mr. Van Vorst built his residence, No. 25 Liberty street, in 1835, and has lived there continuously since.

CITY BANK.—This bank was organized in June, 1874, with a capital of \$100,000, under the general banking laws. The first directors were: T. W. McCamus, Andrew Truax, William J. Van Horne, E. Nott Schermerhorn, William Johnson, C. Van Slyck, Charles G. Ellis, George Curtis, Abraham Gillespie, Garrett S. Veeder, Marcus N. Millard and O. S. Luffman. T. W. McCamus was elected president, and O. F. Luffman as cashier, and remained as such officers from the organization of the bank until they resigned in March, 1884. At this time Charles G. Ellis was chosen president, E. Nott Schermerhorn, cashier, and O. S. Luffman, assistant cashier.

December 15, 1884, it suspended, and John A. De Remer was appointed receiver.

James H. Davis, gentleman, is a well known and respected citizen of Schenectady.

SCHENECTADY WATER-WORKS.

During the latter part of the preceding century, a company was formed in this city to supply the town with water. Water was taken from a spring, which now in part supplies the cemetery pond. It

was conducted by wooden pipes through the main streets at that date. In 1835, this system of water supply seems to have become inadequate for the needs of the city, for in that year an act was passed by the Legislature, empowering the corporation of Schenectady to build a new water-works. Water at this time was obtained by means of a spring on Engine Hill. The pipes were simply logs, with a hole bored through them of a diameter of about two to three inches. For many years this system was in use. Even a small portion above the canal was in use a few years before the present works were constructed. During the excavation made for the present water system, the pipes of the first works were unearthed, and in many cases found to be in a comparatively preserved condition.

THE SCHENECTADY WATER COMPANY.—In 1865, an act was passed by the Legislature incorporating the present Schenectady Water Company. The first directors named in the act were: William Van Vranken, George G. Maxon, D. Cady Smith, John W. Veeder, Simon C. Groot, Benjamin F. Potter, and T. W. McCamus. The capital stock was limited to \$80,000. At a meeting of the directors, shortly after the passage of the act, William Van Vranken was elected President, T. W. McCamus, Vice-President, and D. Cady Smith, Treasurer and Secretary. This, and the following year, ineffectual efforts were made to secure sufficient capital to construct the works.

In 1867, a few of the citizens of Schenectady, believing that the city should own its own water-works, secured the passage of an act, which created William Van Vranken, William J. Van Horne, John C. Ellis, G. G. Maxon, and Andrew McMullen, Water Commissioners. These commissioners were empowered to consider all matters relative to supplying the city with water, to furnish estimates and plans for the construction of water-works to the Common Council; which plans, upon the approval of the Common Council, were to be submitted to the resident taxpayers for their approval or rejection.

The Water Commissioners did agree upon a plan of construction, which was submitted and approved by the Common Council; but when the subject came before the taxpayers some time in the following May, it was overwhelmingly voted down.

The failure of the people's consent to the construction of a city water-works, again brought into active existence the company formed in 1865. In 1869, this company, which had not forfeited its corporate rights, reorganized, by the election of Charles Stanford, President, and William Van Vranken, Treasurer and Secretary. At the reorganization all of the capital stock was subscribed, and the construction of the works commenced the following year, and was completed in 1871. The system adopted is known as the Holley system. The pumping-house is situated at the lower end of Ferry street, adjoining the river. The water is pumped from a large cistern or well, 114 x 6 feet, built under the ground near the margin of the river. The walls of this well are dry, permitting the filtering

of water from the river into the well, while over the top is an arched covering composed of brick and cement. Around the walls is a course of gravel and sand, which has a tendency to purify the water before it reaches the well. A conductor pipe, three feet square and one hundred feet long, extends from the well, along and under the bed, out into the middle of the river. The end of this pipe is protected by a perforated sheet of iron.

In 1872 the works were in active operation, and have been ever since. During 1872, a contract was made by this company, with the city, to furnish water for the extinguishment of fires. Since the adoption of this system, much valuable property has been saved and no fire has extended beyond the building in which it originated, and the losses by fire have been proportionately less than at any other corresponding period of the city's history.

In 1871 only nine miles of pipe and 100 fire hydrants were constructed; at present over fourteen miles of pipe have been laid and 140 hydrants furnished.

The capital of this company was increased to \$100,000 in 1871.

The present officers are: Charles Stanford, President and Treasurer; Charles Stanford, Jr., Secretary. Directors: Charles Stanford, G. G. Maxon, Charles G. Ellis, John McEncroe, Wm. Van Vranken, Edward Ellis, and Charles Stanford, Jr.

GAS-WORKS.

In 1852, a company, composed entirely of capitalists outside of this city, built the first gas-works ever constructed in Schenectady. This company subsequently sold the concern to Abell Smith and James R. Craig. Afterwards it was sold at public auction to Gershom Banker, who conducted it until 1872, when two-thirds interest in it was purchased by Charles Stanford and William Van Vranken. Shortly after, Mr. Banker's interest was sold to John McEncroe. The works have since been operated and controlled by these three gentlemen.

The capital of the company is \$100,000, and the works are capable of producing yearly, 11,000,000 cubic feet of gas.

ROBERT CLEMENT, who for over thirty years was superintendent of the gas-works, was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1824. He died in 1883. Mr. Clement was a citizen widely known and esteemed, being a progressive, intelligent and exemplary man. He was largely interested in real estate in this city, and did much to promote the business interests of Schenectady. He was so long and intimately connected with the gas-works in Schenectady, that he may almost be said to have been its real founder; certain it is, that to his intelligent work, much of its present prosperity can be justly attributed.

JOSEPH H. CLEMENT, son of Robert, was born in New York in 1849. He received his education in the public schools. In 1860 he became connected with the Schenectady gas-works and has remained with this company ever since. At present he is superintendent of the works.

CASPER PRATT HOAG.

CASPER PRATT HOAG was born in Troy, N. Y., September 24, 1810. His father was a vessel owner and he was early inured to the dangers and hardships of a seafaring life, which were then many times greater than they are now. Before attaining to his majority he had at times taken charge of his father's vessel, and had made some progress in the acquisition of a practical knowledge of navigation. Soon after that time he accepted a proposition from a merchant who had built a brig for sea service, to take an interest in the vessel and assume the command. He made two voyages to the Gulf of Mexico, and two to Europe, Madeira and the Canary Islands. After Mr. Hoag's return to New York from the last of these, he and his partner leased the brig to the Brazilian Government to make a voyage to South America, from which she returned in due time newly rigged and in excellent order, having lost her masts, rigging and sails in a tornado, and been refitted at the Isle of St. Thomas at an expense of about \$9,000.

In the meantime, Mr. Hoag had married the youngest daughter of Peter I. Clute, of Schenectady, and had determined to abandon the sea and engage in business at Schenectady in partnership with his brother-in-law. His partner in the ownership of the brig consented to a proposition looking to this end very reluctantly, and after many vain endeavors to persuade Mr. Hoag to reconsider his determination.

The brig was sold to the Brazilian Government, and Mr. Hoag relinquished forever an avocation which had been the means of his visiting many remote and interesting portions of the world, which had many charms for him, and in which he had met many appalling dangers which, if we had space to relate them, would form one of the most interesting portions of this volume. In partnership with C. C. Clute, he purchased five lots in Schenectady and erected a mill, thus establishing a business which the two owned and managed co-jointly for three years, at the expiration of which time, by purchase of his brother-in-law's interest, Mr. Hoag became sole proprietor. He continued the business with considerable success, gradually increasing it until 1845, when, on July 25th, the mill was destroyed by fire. Mr. Hoag's energy is no better evidenced than by the fact that within six months he had erected a brick foundry on his property, and began work therein during the following April. This enterprise Mr. Hoag made a success, as he invariably did such enterprises as he connected himself with, continuing its active personal management until 1860, when his health had failed in so marked a degree that his physician advised him to relinquish his confining business entirely, and take a necessary season of rest and recreation. He leased his foundry to a company of Albany men for five years, and devoted himself to the care of his garden, pleasurable pursuits and such gentle exercise as was most conducive to good health, with such results that his physical condition was vastly improved.

In 1838 he united with the First Reformed Church of Schenectady, and was long officially connected therewith, and one of the most earnest and liberal contributors to its support and advancement. When, in the summer of 1860, its house of worship was destroyed by fire, he was one of the foremost in working to save it, and in all measures for its rebuilding took a leading position, and was a member of its Building Committee. Under their supervision, the erection of a stone edifice of the Netherland Gothic style was begun in October, 1860, and completed in January, 1863.

Since his retirement from business in 1860, Mr. Hoag has not re-entered the manufacturing business in any of its branches; but he has been, as he was previously, prominently identified with several of Schenectady's leading commercial interests. He was a stockholder in the Mohawk Bank, and for twenty-two years, until his resignation about a year ago, a Director in the Schenectady Bank. At various times other important interests have commanded his co-operation. During the past twenty years, the general confidence in his honor and business ability have been attested by his administration of two estates, and his closing out of two others by power of attorney. One of these estates required six years of his time in its settlement, and was divided among thirty-five heirs to their general satisfaction. The settlement of another one of them, the real estate of which was located in Michigan and Delaware, consumed five years of Mr. Hoag's careful attention.

Since the organization of the Republican party, Mr. Hoag has been identified with it; prior to that time he was a Whig, holding principles nearly akin to those of the earlier Republicans. He has represented his ward in the City Government several times as Alderman, and some years ago was chosen Mayor, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of an incumbent of that office. His administration of all trusts, private, public, commercial and political, has been marked by the uprightness and careful intelligence which have characterized him through life. He is one of the many self-made men of Schenectady, and one of the few who stand as connecting links between the Schenectady of fifty years ago and the Schenectady of to-day. Now in his seventy-fifth year, in the enjoyment of good health and a fine intellect, with no wish for worldly honors, made happy by those he loves, he calmly awaits the summons to the reward of a well-spent life.

THE MANUFACTORIES AND INDUSTRIES OF SCHENECTADY.

BROOM CORN.—For half a century Schenectady County produced more broom corn than any other in the State. The New York "Gazetteer," of 1860 and 1872, states that one-half of the entire crop of the State was raised in the county. The introduction of Western corn has reduced the acreage of 1,500 acres, which it was up to 1880, to one-third that quantity. There will not be over 500 acres planted this year—1885. The soil has become

somewhat exhausted by this long repeated work, and land that formerly gave 900 pounds to the acre will now produce only 550 pounds.

The history of this interest is a large factor to a proper commercial knowledge of our county. While the industry shows a marked decline from its former condition, it is yet one of the largest of its kind in the State.

As all old citizens will remember, the broom of former days was a rude device compared with that of to-day. It was simply a few round bunches of corn sewed on to a stick. George Canfield, who came here from Utica about fifty years ago, was the inventor of the improved "Shaker" broom, the flat broom we now use. Mr. Canfield also invented, about 1850, a seed planter, planting previously being done by hand. He also, ten years later, made a horse planter, which is yet in general use. Mr. Canfield never protecting his contrivances by patent, met with the usual result of inventors, and died a poor man.

THE PIONEER.—The very first grower in the county was Otis Smith, who came here from Connecticut over fifty years ago. A Mr. Willard, who owned a farm at the west end of the town, had planted two acres on the island. This was the first land ever planted to broom corn on the Mohawk River. After preparing his land, Mr. Willard, not himself a practical corn grower, sent for Mr. Smith to superintend the crop. Smith purchased land until he owned about 125 acres, and raised and manufactured corn until his death in about 1870.

The following list gives the best information attainable of the pioneers in this industry, beginning on the north side of the Mohawk River at Schenectady, and running thence to Hoffman's Ferry, a distance of ten miles.

NORTH SIDE OF RIVER.—David F. Reese, fifty years ago, owned the islands a mile from the city, known as the Hook Islands. He had 200 to 250 acres, and up to about 1865, the year of his death, was a grower and manufacturer. After his decease, his son Frederick continued the business until his death, some seven or eight years later, when the farm was divided. Mrs. Frederick Reese now owns the Big Island, Hook Island belonging to the Collins family.

Next west to the Reese farm, in Scotia, was that of Charles P. and Edward P. Sanders, who, forty-five years ago, owned 700 acres there, seventy-five of which were devoted to corn. They also manufactured and continued until about 1870, when they retired, though they still grow some corn. They belong to one of the old families of the county.

The next farm on the west was that of 100 acres, owned by Col. Abraham Toll. He raised and manufactured from about 1840 up to about 1865, when his brother, Charles H., bought it and continued the business for ten years. He then gave it up and became a general farmer.

Next west to the Toll place was seventy-five to eighty acres owned by Reuben Ellwood, who, from about 1845 to 1855, grew and manufactured corn.

He then removed to Illinois, selling his property to Wm. Cramer, who, up to his death about fifteen years ago, as has his family since, remained in the same business.

Cornelius and Nicholas Velie had fifty acres, next west to Ellwood, forty-five years ago. Up to about 1860 they grew and manufactured, when they died, Wm. Haslow becoming owner of the farm. He has continued the business ever since.

Next west of the Velie property was that of Nicholas Brooks, who, forty-five years ago, owned sixty acres there. He grew and manufactured corn for about five years, when David F. Reese rented the farm. In about 1855 Harvey Vedder leased it, and in 1865 Christian F. Seeley bought it. Through all these changes the corn business was kept up. The homestead is now owned by James Wyatt and the balance of the farm by Frederick Larbey. No corn is grown now.

Garrett Barhydt owned fifteen to twenty acres, next west to Brooks', thirty years ago, and from that time to date has grown corn.

West of Barhydt's, Wm. Rector began, in about 1845, with thirty-five to forty acres. Has never manufactured, but continues the raising of broom corn.

For thirty years, ending in 1884, Adam H. Swart grew corn upon fifteen acres situate next west to the Rector farm.

Next west to Swart's are forty acres owned by John S. Barhydt, who, fifty years ago, was a grower and manufacturer there. Mr. Barhydt died in 1854, since then his son John has run the farm. He has a manufactory in the city.

Forty years ago Aaron Swart raised corn upon 20 acres next west of Barhydt's. He made a few brooms at first, but soon gave it up. Mr. Swart sold out to Latin Johnson in 1866, and moved to Illinois. Mr. Johnson raised corn until 1884.

Next west to Aaron Swart's is the estate of Philip Vedder, who owned it a century ago. In 1845, Albert H. Vedder began growing corn upon from 40 to 50 acres of the original 150-acre farm. In 1863 he sold 80 acres to Nicholas H. Swart, including the land he had been working. Mr. Swart remained there until 1866, when he sold to Cornelius Van Patten, a grower. Mr. Van Patten died in 1883, leaving the property to his daughter, who shortly afterwards sold it to Bartholomew Clute. No corn is raised there now.

We have traced every farm within the territory specified upon which broom corn was cultivated or brooms made. Next following is given a history of the farms along the ten-mile strip and through the town of Rotterdam on the

SOUTH SIDE OF THE RIVER.—Beginning at Schenectady, on the south side of the river, are the Watervliet Shakers, who, when Otis Smith harvested the first two acres above described, were making preparations to cultivate and manufacture corn in this county. They came here from New Lebanon, and were the first to make brooms for the Schenectady trade. They leased the Tomilson farm of 90 acres. They already

owned—and still do—60 acres two miles up the river, making, with the Tomilson property, 150 acres, which they planted to corn. Nicholas I. Schermerhorn was their superintendent from 1835 for forty years. In 1850 the Tomilson portion was sold to John Myers, who grew and manufactured up to the year of his death, about 1870. He was a large operator. After his death his family rented the land and manufacturing was stopped. The 60-acre piece was recently leased to John Van Epps.

Nicholas I. Schermerhorn, from about 1840 to 1880, had 90 acres where the Jones Car Company is now located. Mr. Schermerhorn was a large grower, manufacturer and dealer. He bought for years about all the corn grown in Schoharie Valley.

Next west to the Schermerhorn property, fifty years ago, John, Alexander and Jacob Van Epps had 200 acres of land and grew and manufactured. In about 1860 the Van Epps' sold a part of the farm to John Veeder. John Myers subsequently bought out Mr. Veeder, and after the death of Mr. Myers his family continued to grow corn, but no longer manufactured. Jacob Van Epps died about 1860, and John Van Epps, 1868. Alexander now lives in the city and still raises corn upon the homestead, though no brooms have been made there since 1863.

Two brothers, John and Simon Schermerhorn, fifty years ago owned 50 acres next west to the Van Epps' home, and from that time to date have grown corn and made brooms.

Fifty years ago, Nicholas Vrooman and Josiah Van Patten owned 150 acres next west to the Schermerhorns, upon which corn was grown. Forty-five years ago, Nicholas also owned 25 acres there, upon which he grew corn and made brooms until 1880, when his son succeeded to the business. Josiah sold his land to Lewis Clement in about 1873, and is now living in the city. Mr. Clement grows corn. Vrooman Van Patten is yet living on his farm, his son, Abram, growing corn and making brooms there.

Next west to Van Patten's, forty years ago, Anthony H. Van Slyke owned 50 acres. He died in about 1865. Corn was cultivated and a few brooms made. His sons, John and Harmon Van Slyke, own the farm, and until 1882 grew some corn. In that year they leased the land, upon which corn is still cultivated.

Abram A. Bradt, next west to Van Slyke's, in 1845 cultivated 25 acres; he also made brooms. After his death, in about 1882, Harvey Bradt took possession and in 1883-4 corn was grown. From 1870 to 1883, Harvey Bradt had quite an extensive manufactory in the city.

In 1835, Simon Maybee, next west to Bradt's, cultivated 15 to 20 acres, continuing until about 1870, the year of his death. Jacob Maybee then grew corn there for about five years.

In 1845, Aaron Bradt cultivated 30 acres next west to Maybee's. He died about 1860, and Francis Bradt grew corn and made a few brooms.

Next west was the 35-acre piece of Abram N. Bradt, who, in 1835, grew corn there. He died

in about 1880, and was succeeded by his son, Simon Bradt, who continued until 1883, the year of his death. The property was bequeathed to his nephew, Abram A. Bradt, who now lives there and grows some corn.

Nicholas Bradt has cultivated twenty acres next west for fifty years, and is yet living there.

John M. Veeder raised corn upon thirty acres next west, from 1857 to 1882. He also made a few brooms, but is now out of the corn business.

Next west to Veeder's farm, and the last on the ten-mile track, is the thirty-acre farm of John Byce, who began raising corn there twenty years ago. He also made a few brooms, but in 1883 retired from the business. The farm is still his home.

CITY DEALERS AND MANUFACTURERS.—Among the prominent dealers and manufacturers of broom corn doing business in the city, are the following:

Nicholas H. Swart has been a buyer and seller since 1835, and since that time has dealt with nearly every prominent grower in this section. Mr. Swart shipped the first load of broom corn ever brought from any Western State to this city. This load was from Illinois, in the year 1852.

We are indebted to Mr. Swart for a recital of many of the facts given in this article, and to his remarkably clear memory any credit due to its accuracy should be given.

H. J. Ansicker, Water street, corner Washington avenue, house 3, Ferry, continued; John Barhydt, 21 Washington avenue; Henry Bradt, broom handles, Mill lane; H. S. De Forest, 100 Centre street; Charles Horstman & Co., 6 River; C. F. Rankins & Co., 121 Front street; Henry Whitmyre, 19 North street; Chas. L. Whitmyre, 12 and 14 Washington avenue; Christopher Van Slyck, 7 Pine and 57 Centre street; James A. Flinn, John street.



THE SCHENECTADY LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

Are under good management, and deserve the success they enjoy.

The capital of the Schenectady Locomotive Engine Manufactory, the first company formed, was raised by the citizens of Schenectady in January, 1848, and was expended in buildings and machinery by a company who agreed to pay the interest on the capital annually, and to pay to the stockholders the whole capital in eight years, and thus themselves become the owners of the property. This company carried on the works about one year; their affairs turned out so badly that they abandoned the works, which remained idle for twelve months, during which time a part of the personal property was sold for taxes. The whole works were finally sold at one-half cost.

The purchasers under the sale were John Ellis, Daniel D. Campbell, and Simon C. Groot, who, with others, raised a new capital, and on June 14, 1851, the present company, The Schenectady Locomotive Works, was incorporated. Walter McQueen acquired an interest in 1851, which he still retains. By February, 1863, John Ellis had, by purchase, acquired, substantially, the entire stock. October 4, 1864, Mr. Ellis died, and his stock was subsequently divided among his heirs,

his sons, John C., Charles G., and William D. John C. Ellis died October 4, 1884, just twenty years after the death of his father.

The officers and stockholders—all stockholders being trustees—are: Charles G. Ellis, President; Walter McQueen, Vice-President; Edward Ellis, Treasurer. The estate of John C. Ellis, deceased, and William D. Ellis.

The plant of this large concern occupies an area of ten acres (though they use for all purposes twenty-one acres), upon which are erected fifteen brick structures, ranging in size from 25 x 71 feet to 100 x 252 feet, and 85 x 345 feet. It is bounded by Fonda, Romeyn, and Nott streets, and the New York Central Railroad. They own, in addition, lumber yards on Romeyn street, coal yards between the canal and Fonda street, and their water-works upon the west side of the canal are constantly pumping water from the Mohawk River.

All classes of locomotives, from the small, narrow gauge to the large consolidation, with eight driving-wheels, are made, their annual capacity being 225 engines.

One thousand one hundred men are employed, to whom is paid, monthly, from \$50,000 to \$60,000.

The products of this establishment are seen throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The Superintendent, A. J. PITKIN, was born at Akron, O., in 1854; served an apprenticeship as



Wm Gibson

machinist there ; entered the drawing room of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia, in 1876 ; was Mechanical Engineer for the Rhode Island Locomotive Works, Providence, in 1880 ; came to Schenectady in 1882 as Mechanical Engineer for the Schenectady Locomotive Works, and was appointed Superintendent of the Works in 1884.

WILLIAM GIBSON.

WILLIAM GIBSON was born near Edinburgh, Scotland, February 16, 1812, and died in Schenectady, March 28, 1881. During his boyhood, until his eighteenth year, he attended the schools of that city. He came to America in 1830 and soon located in Troy, where he speedily secured work in Burden's iron works. Shortly afterward he was appointed foreman in the spike factory. Six years later he was made superintendent of the works, which, however, were not so extensive as they are at the present time. In 1853 he severed his connection with the Burden works and removed to Albany, and became Superintendent of the Albany Northern Railroad, now a part of the railway sys-

tem controlled by the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company.

In 1855 he engaged in the manufacture of spikes in the shop of Mr. Townsend, which was located in what is now the lower part of Albany, thus embarking in business on his own account. He sold out this enterprise a year later and removed to Schenectady. In 1858, Mr. John Ellis, formerly owner of the Schenectady Locomotive Works, and father of the present proprietors, knowing his worth, secured his valuable services, and promoted him to the position of assistant superintendent of the shops. The duties of his position he performed with zeal and fidelity, until his failing health compelled him to relinquish them in 1876, subsequent to which date he was in no wise occupied, save in taking care of his own property and that of others left to his immediate charge.

Mr. Gibson was scarcely twenty-one years of age when he married Mary McQueen, sister of Walter McQueen, for some time superintendent of the locomotive works. His marriage occurred on July 4, 1832, during his residence in Troy. At that time he was a member of the Associate Presbyterian

Church of that city, of which Rev. Dr. Bullions, author of Bullions' English Grammar, was pastor. He was a leading spirit in that church until his removal to Schenectady, when he united with the First Presbyterian Church of the latter city, which was then under the pastoral charge of Rev. Dr. Backus. As a Christian he was ever fervent and staunch, doing willingly and unostentatiously his utmost for the advancement of the cause he loved. He was a man of active temperament, and his sensitive nature often stood in opposition to his better judgment. He was counted a man worthy of unlimited respect and confidence, and he won and retained numerous friends who mourned his death with sorrow. He left a family of four: a widow, two grown-up sons, William W. and Peter M. Gibson, and a daughter, Jennie M., widow of the late John Gilmour. Another daughter, Mary E., died in 1852, aged four and one-half years. His father died in Scotland and his mother came to America with her son. She never made Schenectady her home, but lived with her daughter at Auburn, where she died some years ago.

The firm of McQUEEN & STAGE, mechanical engineers and manufacturers of steam engines and boilers, and self-regulating boilers for steam heating, 170 Centre street, was organized April 1, 1884. The individual members are Hon. Daniel P. McQueen and David L. Stage. The plant covers an area of 80 x 125 feet. Fifteen to twenty men are employed, the annual output amounting to \$25,000. They also do plumbing and gas and steam-fitting.

Among the buildings which were fitted up by them, are the Classical Institute, the German Catholic School, and the home of Hon. John D. Campbell. Mr. McQueen was member of Assembly in 1874, and has also been inspector of foreign vessels, while Mr. Stage, for twelve years prior to 1884, was chief engineer of the Schenectady water-works.

THE WESTINGHOUSE COMPANY, manufacturers of agricultural engines, grain-threshers, horse-powers, etc., is known throughout the United States. In 1837, George Westinghouse began at Fonda, N. Y., the manufacture of his patent threshing-machine and horse-power. Facilities were added from time to time, as trade demanded, and in 1850 the works were removed to Schenectady, where they were enlarged. In 1870, Mr. G. Westinghouse retired from business. In 1874 the buildings were destroyed by fire, and were immediately rebuilt. In 1884 the Westinghouse Company was organized, the stock being held by the partners of the firm, which was succeeded by the corporate body. The officers are: J. Westinghouse, President; Spencer Moore, Vice-President; John Westinghouse, Treasurer; H. R. Hegeman, Secretary.

The premises are between Dock street and the Erie Canal, with a track from the Central Railroad running through them. The main building is of brick, 300 x 500 feet, three stories. Around it are the foundry, blacksmith shop, warehouses, office, etc.

A force of 175 to 200 is employed, and the annual capacity is 300 threshers, 150 engines, and corresponding number of horse-powers.

Henry V. Jackson is the senior member of the firm of JACKSON & SANDS, engineers and machinists, corner Jay and Franklin streets. They are builders of engines and machinery for yachts, launches and for stationary purposes. They also repair machinery of all kinds.

The history of the KILMER WIRE BAND MANUFACTURING COMPANY, Dock street, is unique in the annals of the city. In 1876, Augustus Kilmer, then a resident of Howe's Cave, Schoharie County, N. Y., aided by members of his family, invented the wire band now so extensively manufactured by them. Patent was obtained in 1877, and one year later the manufacturing began. In 1880 the company built and moved into their present works. They occupy an area of 100 x 180 feet, upon which are buildings to the extent of 1400 square feet. The machinery, most of which is patented by the company, is driven by a steam engine of fifty-five horse-power, and 125 men are employed. The average daily output of completed work is eight tons.

They make annealed Bessemer steel wire bands for baling hay, straw, flax, etc., fence wire, and ornamental fencing, by a process of which they are the inventors and proprietors. The company is composed of the father, Augustus Kilmer, and his seven sons, Ransom, Martin L., Irving A., Thalas S., Melvin D., Elmer E. and William A., and Edward Davis, a son-in-law. Among the leading inventions of the firm is the fancy fencing and the arrow bale-fastener cutter invented by Irving A., and the twisting machine for bale loops by Irving A. and Elmer E. Additional buildings are soon to be constructed.

THE JONES CAR MANUFACTURING COMPANY.—The Jones Manufacturing Company came to Schenectady from West Troy in 1875, renting the premises of the Schenectady Car Company for the manufacture of street cars. Soon after the works were enlarged and they began the manufacture of drawing-room cars and sleepers, which continued until February 4, 1884, when E. Nott Schermerhorn was appointed its receiver, and for about eight months the business was continued by him. About the beginning of 1885, Mr. Walter A. Jones leased the works of the receiver, and in June, 1885, they were re-leased to the New York Sleeping Car Company, which is at the present time the controller of the works.

THATCHER ELEVATOR.—What is now commonly known as the Thatcher Elevator, was built in 1865 by George G. Maxon, of this city, and John W. Thompson, of Ballston Spa. From then until May 1, 1884, George G. Maxon and his son, Ethan A. Maxon, conducted the business. Mr. Thompson having previously sold his interest in the real property to Mr. Maxon, Sr., a stock company was formed, the name being the Schenectady Elevating Company, of which George G. Maxon is President and Treasurer, and Le Grand C. Cramer, Secretary. In May, 1884, Ralph W. Thatcher, of



C. C. Clute.

Albany, leased the property of the company for a term of years yet unexpired.

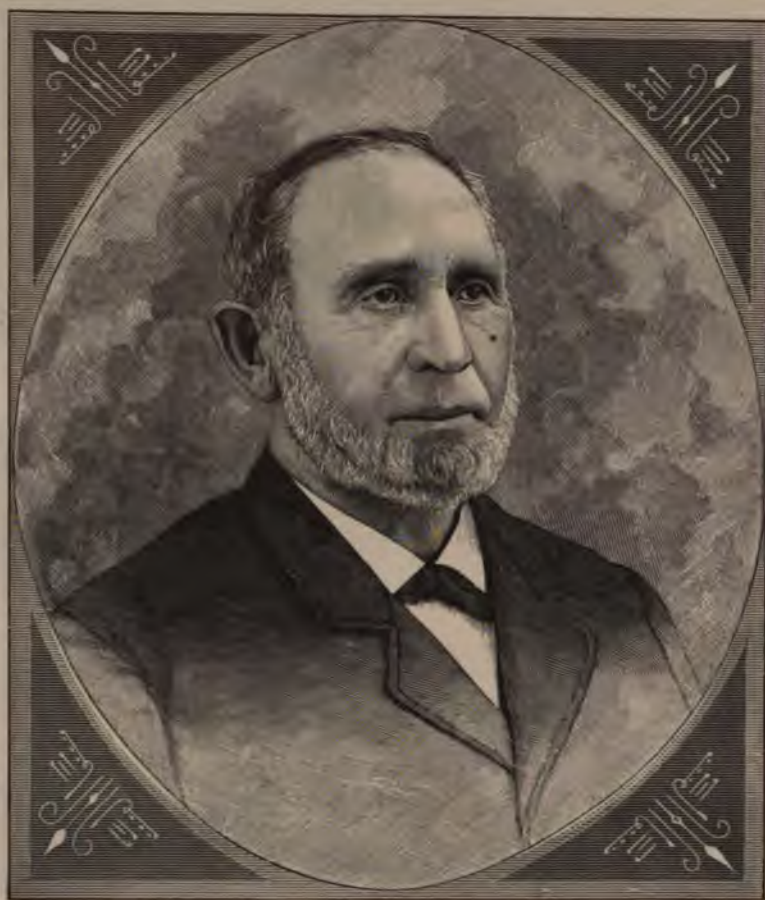
An elevator and general mill business is done, from one to one and one-half million bushels of grain being annually handled. Their principal business is in receiving and transferring grain which reaches here from the West *via* the Erie canal and the railways, for Northern New York and New England States. The main building is 60 x 100 feet in extent, 95 feet high. A 200 horse-power engine is used. From 15 to 30 men are employed.

C. C. CLUTE.

CADWALLADER COLDEN CLUTE, eldest son of Peter I. Clute, was born in the City of Schenectady, October 18, 1814. Becoming associated in early life with his father (afterward of the firm of Clute & Bailey) in the general foundry business, he laid the foundation for those strict methodical business habits which were so characteristic of him through life. Dissolving this connection, he started in trade for himself, conducting successfully for a

number of years a hardware store, located on the block between the canal and railroad crossing on State street, Schenectady. During this time, and about the year 1841, he associated with one or two others, and took a contract for building sections 19 and 28 on the Western Railroad. In 1842 he purchased the interest of Joel C. Bailey, of the firm of Clute & Bailey, and the firm of P. I. Clute & Sons was organized, continuing until the year 1849, when it was merged in the firm of Clute Brothers, P. I. Clute retiring. His connection with this firm, subsequently changed to that of Clute Brothers & Co., remained up to the day of his death. On the organization of the firm of G. Westinghouse & Co., and the establishment of that house in Schenectady in 1856, he became a member, and continued such until the reorganization of the firm in 1870. On the organization of the Mohawk Bank of Schenectady in the year 1859, he was elected a director, and held that position uninterrupted until his death, August 16, 1876.

He left a legacy of six thousand (\$6,000) dollars to the Home of the Friendless.



N. J. Schermerhorn

SHAWL FACTORY.—In 1848, the building now occupied by James Roy & Co. for the manufacture of woolen cloth, was built by Schenectady capitalists, and up to 1854 was used as a carpet factory. During this year Messrs. Roy & Co. purchased the property, changing its name to the Watervliet Mills, by which name it is now known. Up to about 1870 shawls were the main production, when, by the introduction of proper machinery, the manufacture of woolen cloth and ladies' dress goods was begun. A few shawls are still made yearly. Since Roy & Co. have owned the concern no cotton has been ever mixed with their goods, and the annual consumption of wool is now one-half million pounds.

The buildings front 235 feet on Church street, and run through to Railroad street. One hundred horse-power is used, and 75 males and 75 females are employed. The company's real estate covers an area bounded by Church, Water and Railroad streets, with the exception of one house at the angle formed by Railroad and Church streets. They also own two brick wool store-houses opposite the factory on Church street.

James Roy & Co. were incorporated January 1, 1866, and two woolen mills at West Troy are owned by them, also being known to the trade as the Watervliet Mills.

Arthur W. Hunter was the first manager of the concern here, continuing as such up to 1875, when he retired, and his son, Winfield S. Hunter, took his place, which he still retains. Among their old employees are John Jarvie, boss carder, with 23 years service to his credit, and John Moorhouse, boss wool sorter, with 30 years.

KNITTING MILLS.—**THE IMPERIAL HOSIERY MILLS,** McLachlin, Conde & Co., proprietors, was organized January 3, 1881, with \$50,000 capital. The individual members are John McLachlin, Cornelius S. Conde (who is manager and superintendent), and Edwin Groat. Mr T. K. Conde was a partner up to 1883, when he retired. Knit goods of all kinds for children, ladies and gentlemen are made. 300 sets of cards, 750 spindles, 9 knitting machines and 14 sewing machines, keep busy 40 female and 26 male operatives, who produce 1,500 dozen goods monthly, which are in value from \$5 to \$10 per dozen.

The works, corner Ferry street, continued, and Erie street, are two stories, frame, 90 x 50 feet, with an L 24 x 36 feet. A 70 horse-power boiler and 60 horse-power engine are used. The value of the building and furniture is \$50,000.

SCHENECTADY KNITTING MILL.—The Schenectady Knitting Mill Company was organized in 1875. The principal stockholders were Hon. Charles Stanford, N. I. Schermerhorn, D. D. Campbell and William H. McClyman. The building was completed in 1876, and a prosperous business conducted until 1878, when the entire property was destroyed by fire. In 1879 the building was rebuilt and work again resumed. For a number of years Hon. Charles Stanford was president of this company. He resigned a few years ago, when N. I. Scher-

merhorn was elected in his place. Wm. H. McClyman is treasurer and general manager of this mill. About 130 persons have been continuously employed in this flourishing establishment since it was rebuilt.

NICHOLAS I. SCHERMERHORN.

NICHOLAS I. SCHERMERHORN was born in the town of Duanesburgh, N. Y., March 26, 1818. His father, of German descent, was born in Schodac, N. Y., July 14, 1779, and moved to the town of Duanesburgh, 1817.

In 1824, when he moved to Rotterdam, Nicholas was about eight years old. In 1833 his father died, and his remains now rest in the family plot in Vale cemetery. Nicholas was now in his fifteenth year, and being the oldest son, the direction and care of the household was assumed by him, managing the farm in the interests of the family. At twenty-three years of age, in 1841, he was married to Susan, daughter of Conrad Chism, and remained upon the farm for three years longer. His first enterprise, in 1844, was in raising broom corn for the Watervliet Shakers on the Rotterdam-Mohawk Flats, two miles west of the city of Schenectady. The second year he commenced the manufacture of brooms on his own account.

His business increased from year to year, until he became the largest producer and manufacturer in this part of the country, up to 1877, when he disposed of his interest in this business.

In 1855 he moved his family on the old homestead of Bartholomew Schermerhorn in Rotterdam, opposite the grist-mill, and there bought three hundred acres of land, including all that part of the Mohawk flats adjoining the city of Schenectady. Here he lived until 1870, when he bought the fine residence of Dr. L. Ellwood, 230 State street, in the city of Schenectady, and removed there with his family, and where he still lives.

In 1865 he bought the Vandebogart Brothers' coal business, and formed a co-partnership with his son-in-law, Mr. W. H. McClyman, in which they continued until 1874, when Mr. McClyman retired from the firm and Mr. Schermerhorn's son, William G., was taken into partnership with his father.

Messrs. Schermerhorn & Son also entered into the hay and straw business about 1872, on the dock between the Erie Canal and the New York Central Railroad, in which they still continue. The coal business was sold out in 1884. In 1880, Mr. Schermerhorn and his brother-in-law, William Christler, bought the Schenectady flouring mill, which they still continue to operate.

Outside of his mercantile business, he took the contract to build the Schenectady and Duanesburgh railroad and took into partnership with him on the contract Messrs. Samuel Donaldson, of Fultonville, and Harmon Van Slyke, of Rotterdam. The work was completed within a year.

He was one of the originators and stockholders of the Schenectady Car Works, built on a part of his Rotterdam farm near the city. He was also one of the originators and stockholders of the Schenectady

Knitting Mills, known as the Brandywine Mills, and he still continues to be an active member of the firm, and is also its president. He is one of the originators and a large stockholder in the McQueen Locomotive Works in Rotterdam, situated on the flats near the Jones Car Works, and he still remains connected with that enterprise.

He has been a director of the Schenectady Bank for the past twenty years, and also a trustee of the Savings Bank. He is also a trustee of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city, who own one of its finest buildings.

He has taken an active part in the political interests of his county, and has held the office of Supervisor in the town of Rotterdam two terms, County Superintendent of the Poor three terms, and County Treasurer from 1867 to 1882.

Thus it may be seen that Mr. Schermerhorn has been an active and honored citizen; a promoter of the industries of the community; that he has done much to advance the material and social interests. His life has been a success in many respects. He is a model of enterprise and is highly esteemed by his acquaintances.

Mr. Schermerhorn has also shown the art of ruling his own house well. He has three children, one son and two daughters. His son, William G., resides with him and is an active partner in his business. He married Sarah L. Swart and has one son, N. Irving, ten years of age. His daughter Anna M., married William H. McClyman, of the Schenectady Knitting Mills, and they have one daughter, Susie May, age sixteen. His other daughter, Catherine E., married G. S. Veeder Miller. They have four sons: Abram G., age 22 years; William S., age 20 years; Nicholas I., age 13 years; and Garret S., age 7 years.

He is a member of the congregation of the First Reformed Church, and one of its Advisory Committee.

SUSHOLZ & MYERS.—The house of Susholz & Myers, with Solomon Susholz, George Susholz and Adolph Myers, was organized in 1880-81. In February, 1884, George Susholz and Mr. Myers retired, Solomon succeeding to the business, and the firm name becoming S. Susholz. George remained as superintendent. Their mills, on Dock street, are of brick, 4 stories, 50 x 150 feet; an engine of 100 horse-power turns 4 sets of cards, 4 self-operating mules, and 16 knitting cylinders, the average daily capacity being 800 pounds yarn. 75 females and 25 males are employed, who produce scarlet-colored woolen knit underwear for men, women and children.

They have selling agents in New York City.

The firm of JOHN WIEDERHOLD & Co., manufacturers of ladies' underwear, children's garments, dress wrappers, aprons, hoop skirts, etc., 180 Centre street, was established in 1870. For a time the firm was Wiederhold Brothers, but it was subsequently changed to its present form. Mr. John Wiederhold, the senior member, has been at the head of the business from the first. The factory is a three-story brick building, 50 x 100 feet, and

employs one hundred women and girls. It is fully equipped with sewing and other necessary machines and implements.

BREWERS, MALTSTERS, ETC.—The first brewery in Schenectady of which there is any knowledge was in 1820. It was located in the First ward on Washington avenue. A Mr. Moffatt conducted it for seven or eight years, when he discontinued, and the brewery was closed.

About this time (1820), but possibly two or three years later, two brothers, Hugh and Daniel Martin, started one on the same avenue. This was soon sold to Mr. La Britton, who continued it for a few years, when he in turn stopped brewing. Still another, and located on the same avenue, at the head of Union street, was the one started in about 1824 by John S. Vrooman and Isaac M. Schermerhorn. Mr. Vrooman soon retired, and, shortly afterward, Francis Myers purchased the same. Mr. Myers evidently did not meet with much financial encouragement, for he soon withdrew from the business. While the exact dates of the closing of the above-named concerns is not attainable, all of them were out of existence by the year 1831.

In about 1830, Reed Brothers started a malt-house on the dock, in the building erected by Daniel D. Campbell, of Rotterdam. The building passed through the hands of Messrs. Millard & Crane, Cornelius Thompson, H. Rosa and Martin De Forrest, and finally into the hands of the Susholz Manufacturing Company.

Peter Engle owns and conducts a lager-beer brewery at 47 Nott terrace. This is the only brewery now in the city.

Cornelius Thompson has a malt-house on Dock street, and has been in the business for many years.

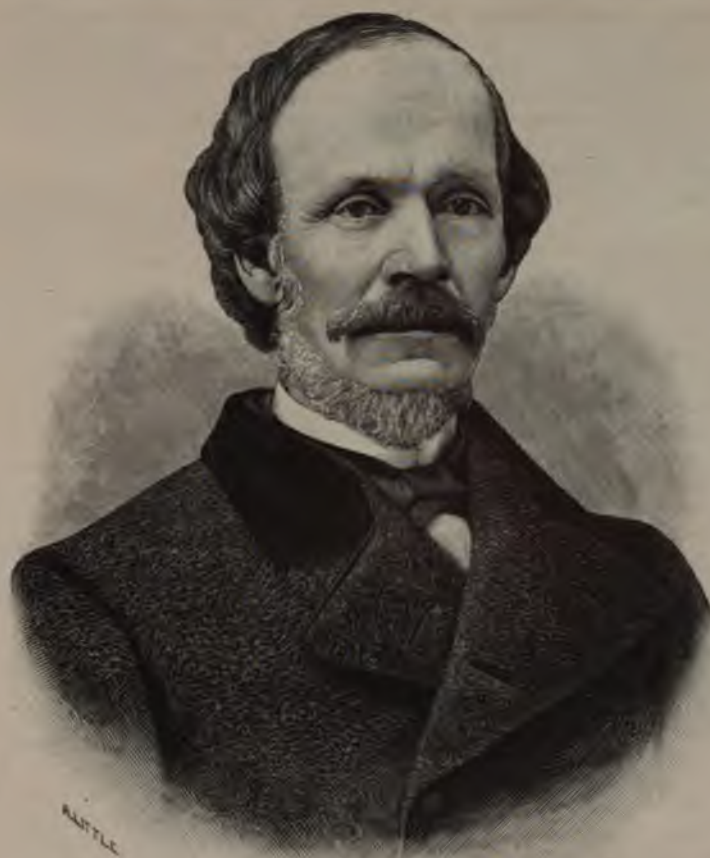
In 1860, George Weller began the manufacturing and bottling of soda water at 62 College street, remaining there until 1863, when he removed to No. 46 of the same street, his present location. The manufactory covers an area of 60 x 190 feet, and is two stories high. He employs eight males, and his trade extends through a radius of forty miles. Mr. Weller is the only manufacturer and bottler of soda water, lemon soda, sarsaparilla and ginger ale in the county. He also makes seltzer water.

In 1875 he became agent for the Bartholomay Brewing Company, and since then has kept a supply depot for this and Montgomery Counties. The curious yet simple bottling machine used by him for his soda water is well worth an inspection.

Charles Weincke, proprietor of the Hotel Germania, corner Liberty and Centre streets, has for many years had a large share of public patronage.

HOWLAND S. BARNEY.

HOWLAND S. BARNEY, the recognized head of the mercantile fraternity of Schenectady, and one of the most notable of the self-made men of Schenectady County, was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., March 23, 1822, a son of Dr. Z. H. and Eliza



H. S. Barney

(Swain) Barney. When his son was about four years old, Dr. Barney removed to Minaville, Montgomery County. There, as he grew older, the boy attended the common schools till he had reached the age of fourteen, when (in 1836) he came to Schenectady and became a clerk in the dry goods store of Sydney B. Potter. He was thus employed four years.

Next he found employment in the store of John Olin, whose partner he became in 1849, under the firm name of John Olin & Co. In 1853 he bought the interest of a retiring partner in the firm of Barringer & Co. In 1858, through changes in its *personnel*, this firm was reorganized under the style of H. S. Barney & Co., and so it has since been known. It has been due largely to Mr. Barney's mercantile ability and sound and enter-

prising management that this house has outgrown all rivals, ranking as the wealthiest and most extensive dry goods concern in the city, and occupying commodious and well-appointed quarters at Nos. 93, 95, 97 and 99 State street. This large building was erected in 1872, and occupied in April, 1873.

Mr. Barney is a Republican, but has always been too busy, and has never been inclined, to take any active part in politics. He has done his full share to promote the interests of the city. In 1856 he married Sarah, daughter of Joseph Horsfall, of Schenectady. They have two children.

DRY GOODS.—The firm of H. S. Barney & Co., dealers in dry goods, carpets etc., 95, 97 and 99 State street, was established about 1843 by Messrs.

ness then located at 235 State street, which had been established since 1840.

L. N. REESE, of the firm of Reese & Hartley, corner Union and Romeyn streets, is one of the leading grocers, and enjoys the reputation of a fair and honest dealer.

CHARLES N. SMITH, grocer, a son of the late Abel Smith, has been in business in Schenectady since March, 1883, in connection with A. Dillenbeck.

WILLIS T. HANSON & Co., druggists and apothecaries, 195 State street, was established in 1879. The premises are 25 x 100 feet, with the prescription department and private office in the rear. They deal in all the standard medicines, trusses and other surgical appliances, toilet articles, pure wines and liquors, mineral and medicinal waters, cigars, etc.

Their specialty, and which is their manufacture, is "Hanson's Magic Corn Salve," a remedy widely known.

Mr. Willis T. Hanson is the active partner of the concern.

In 1835, Andrew Truax established the pharmacy at 141 State street, which is now conducted by ANDREW T. VEEDER. Mr. Truax retained his connection with it for forty-eight years. In 1864 Mr. Veeder became partner, and in January, 1883, Mr. Truax retired, leaving his former junior partner sole proprietor.

The premises are 30 x 100 feet in dimension, and the stock carried embraces all necessary articles. Dr. Veeder is a descendant of one of our oldest families, is an accomplished pharmacist, and treasurer of the County Medical Society.

ANDREW TRUAX, M.D.

Dr. ANDREW TRUAX was born in Schenectady April 10, 1811, and died there September 26, 1883. About 1830 he became a clerk in the drug store of Richard Fuller (the old Dunlap & Fuller drug store), and while thus employed studied medicine. After his graduation, he located and practiced for a few years on the Hudson River. Returning to Schenectady about 1835, he opened a drug store, which has grown to be the most extensive concern of the kind in the city, and is now under the management of his nephew, Andrew T. Veeder, who became his partner in 1866.

Dr. Truax was successful in business. Ever attentive to all duties, he was economical, but never penurious. His reputation for all those qualities which characterize the honorable, upright man of affairs was well known, and as a citizen his virtues were as conspicuous as his honor. He was a quiet, unassuming gentleman, courteous to all, whether high or low. His words were few, but to the point. No appeal for charity, when the object was deserving, was made to him in vain. Many an aching heart was made glad by his kindly hand, and many a poor soul, whose necessities he relieved, felt, at his death, that a faithful friend was gone. Like his life, his charities were unostentatious, and in this he but obeyed the promptings

of his noble heart, which turned from vain display. He never married. Although not a professor of religion, he was a faithful attendant at the First Reformed Church. His friendship was steadfast, and the many who knew him will respect his memory while they live.

ED. L. DAVIS, druggist, began business in Schenectady in 1881, and has a flourishing trade.

G. A. F. STEINFUEHER has sustained a prosperous business in the drug trade for some years, and well merits the extensive patronage he controls.

FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKING. — The present firm of ALBERT BROWN & SON, 154 State street, upholsterers and furniture manufacturers and undertakers, is the outcome of the business established by Albert Brown in 1829 in the Lassell building. In 1830, Mr. Brown bought the cabinet shop of Nicholas Yates, State street, and occupied it until 1833, when he leased the store of Cornelius Groot, subsequently Vedder & Co. Six years later he was burned out, and then leased the Doty Block. In 1857 he moved into the I. I. Truax Block across the way, remaining there until 1872. His son, Clinton C., purchased Fuller's Hotel, corner State and Dock streets, and converted it into the present establishment, to which place Mr. Brown removed October 1, 1872. During the years from 1872 to 1882, the firm was known as Albert Brown, A. & E. Brown, A. Brown & Son, Albert Brown and A. Brown & Son, under which head it still exists. Since the death of Mr. Brown, March 6, 1882, the business has been conducted by Clinton C. Brown. Mr. George Harding has been with the house since February 16, 1843.

The semi-centennial of Mr. Albert Brown's business life, April 10, 1879, was a memorable event in the history of Schenectady.

In 1849, CHARLES N. YATES learned his trade of Albert Brown, in the same building now occupied by the former. Mr. Yates during the years 1849-50-51 was with his father, Nicholas Yates, at 27 Front street. After several business changes, Mr. Yates purchased his present property, 62, 68, 70 and 72 State street, and engaged in the wholesale and retail furniture and upholstering business, where he has since remained. He also manufactures, from the raw stuff, any custom work ordered. Fifteen males are employed, and their productions reach Saratoga and Montgomery Counties. The undertaking department is in charge of Mr. J. S. Timeson. A son of the proprietor, M. De Forest Yates, is associated with the business.

The establishment of LEVI T. CLUTE, hatter and furrier, 101 State street, was founded in 1839 by his father, William H. Clute, and Levi W. Teller, under the firm name of Clute & Teller. They were then located at 96 State street. Mr. Teller died in 1861, and the business was carried on by Wm. H. Clute until 1867, when Levi T. was added, the firm name becoming W. H. Clute & Son. The firm remained without change until 1871, the year of Mr. Clute's death, since which time Levi T. Clute has conducted the most extensive business

10

11

12



King & Son, N.Y.

A. May

in the line of hats, caps, furs, robes, trunks and satchels in the county.

JAMES SANDERS, importer and dealer in watches and jewelry, 109 State street, has been established for about forty years. The store is 30 x 90 feet in extent, is richly fitted up, and presents an attractive appearance. Mr. Sanders also deals in clocks, spectacles and eye-glasses. He is also sole agent for the Charles E. Jacot watches.

J. V. VROOMAN has been a dealer in stoves, hardware, tinware, etc., and a plumber, gas and steam-fitter since 1854, the year he established his present business. There has been no change in the firm name since the admission of his son, W. C. Vrooman, when the name was changed to J. V. Vrooman & Son.

Their premises at 64 and 66 State street are 28 x 106 feet in extent, and three stories high. The first floor is devoted to general retail purposes. In the mechanical department from fifteen to twenty men are employed in plumbing, gas and steam-fitting, tin and sheet metal-working, etc. Buildings are fitted up for steam heating at high or low pressure.

W. J. SWITS, 136 and 138 State street, hardware merchant, is a well known business man of the city. He also deals in house furnishing goods, stoves and agricultural implements, and all kinds of metal work is done to order.

CLARK WITBECK is a wholesale dealer in hardware, cutlery, iron, steel, farming and agricultural implements, at 217 State street. The annual output is large, and his trade extends throughout a large section of country.

The establishment of LEVI W. CASE, copper-smith, gas and steam fitter, 12 and 14 Warren street, was founded in 1849. The shop is of brick, two stories high and 60 x 50 feet in dimensions. It is equipped with proper machinery, which is driven by a stationary steam engine. From twelve to fifteen skilled workmen are employed. A specialty is fitting up public buildings, factories, dwellings, etc., for heating by steam at high or low pressure. In addition to the manufacturing and jobbing department, Mr. Case also deals in pipe, fittings, cocks, rubber hose, drive-well pipes, drain and sewer pipe, drive-well pumps, steam radiators, etc.

J. W. McMULLEN, marble and granite dealer, 7 State street, purchased in 1871 his present establishment of Mr. F. Kinney, who founded it in about 1855. The premises are 60 x 150 feet, the front portion being used as a shop and the rear as a yard for storage. Mantels, windows, caps, monumental and other architectural work of all kinds are produced. Mr. McMullen was born and reared in Albany, where he resided until his removal here, about fourteen years ago.

For twenty-one years previous to 1876, J. H. BAME was engaged in the livery business in this city. During that year he retired from that business and became a dealer in carriages, harness, robes, horse clothing, etc., locating in the Bame block, corner of Centre and Liberty streets. He built and owns the block, of which he occupies a part.

He also lets money on real estate, and buys and sells horses.

In 1852, Mr. E. L. Freeman came here from Chenango County, and succeeded Mr. Jonathan Crane as a dealer in paints, oils, glass, putty, etc., locating at 18 Wall street. Mr. Crane established the firm about 1840. Shortly after Mr. Freeman purchased the business his two brothers were added, under the style of E. L. Freeman & Co., which continued without change until 1874, when Mr. E. L. Freeman died.

Jonathan R. Freeman and A. T. Freeman then formed the present firm, FREEMAN BROTHERS. Their trade is wholesale and retail, and their stock embraces everything legitimately connected therewith.

JAMES W. DARROW & Co. (Gerardus Smith), coal and wood dealers, office, 110 Centre Street, commenced in 1878. The large yard on Ferry street, near the canal, has good facilities for receiving the coal and shipping it in large quantities; the yard on Centre street is convenient for delivery through the city. Both yards are fully equipped with necessary sheds and screens.

ANDREW McMULLEN, coal, wood, lime, cement, broom-handles, etc., 92 and 94 Union and 8, 9 and 10 Dock street, has been in business since 1858. The Union street premises have a frontage of 60 feet, extending along the railway 200 feet. An office and two-story warehouse is also there. The office, warehouse and yard on Dock street were opened so as to obtain easy access to the canal.

Mr. McMullen has resided here for 55 years; has served as Alderman and Supervisor; and was for four years Mayor of the city. Associated with him is his son, Henry McMullen.

SIMON H. VEDDER, grandson of Nicholas Vedder, was born in Schenectady July 17, 1839, and in 1872 established at 61 Park place his present business, that of wholesale and retail dealer in coal and wood, and manufacturer of refined cider and pure cider vinegar.

H. ROSA, dealer in coal and wood, 15 Dock street, has been in this business for forty years. The yard, which is in the rear of the office, is accessible to the canal on the front and to a branch track of the railway in the rear. It is fitted up with the necessary appliances.

F. W. RANKINS is a dealer in coal on the dock, and ranks as a popular business man of the city.

In 1868, J. H. DAKIN founded his present business, that of plumber, gas and steam-fitter, jobbing machinist and brass-founder, at 102, 104 and 106 Liberty street. The premises are 125 x 69 feet, upon which is a building 125 x 30 feet containing the warerooms and shop. It is equipped with proper machinery and steam power.

MR. BENJAMIN VAN VRANKEN is an old resident. From 1853 to 1865 he was engaged as a grocer, building in 1862 the block corner Jay and State streets, which he occupied for three years. He was, in 1870, superintendent of section two, Erie Canal, being that part of the canal running from the lower

Mohawk aqueduct to Amsterdam, a distance of 32 miles. He held the position for two years, and was reappointed in 1874, holding it for four years. Since then Mr. Van Vranken, as contractor and builder, has been busily engaged, erecting, among others, the bridge across the North River from Luzerne, Washington County, N. Y., to Hadley, Saratoga County, N. Y.

The contract for the first foot of sewer ever laid in Schenectady was let to Benjamin Van Vranken, in August, 1884. Work was commenced in October, 1884, for constructing ten miles.

In 1867 he invented the improved "Empire" brick machine, which is yet in universal use.

DUNCAN ROBISON, builder and contractor, has been in business in Schenectady more than thirty years. His grand-parents emigrated from Scotland and landed in New York July 4, 1776, and soon afterward located in Rotterdam and engaged in farming. Many of their descendants are now living in that town.

The history of Schenectady County would be incomplete without mention of one of its most enterprising citizens.

HON. CHARLES STANFORD was born in Albany County in 1819, and became a resident of this county in 1861. He represented this county in the Assembly of 1864-5, and this district in the Senate, 1866-9. In the Senate he distinguished himself by his connection with canal reforms. He was largely interested in public enterprises in this city, being President of the Schenectady Water Company, Gas Company, and the McQueen Locomotive Works, and was one of the largest real estate owners in the city. He resided in the town of Niskayuna, where he conducted a stock farm, being largely interested in the breeding of horses. He died in August, 1885.

HON. JOHN W. VEEDER was born in this city in 1825. He was educated at the old Lyceum. He was engaged in transportation and grocery business for a number of years. In 1854 he was appointed Canal Collector, and in 1858 elected County Clerk. The latter office he resigned in 1861, to accept the appointment of postmaster under President Lincoln. He held this position for eight years. From 1874 to 1883 he was employed in the State School Department, under State Superintendent of Schools Neil Gilmour. In 1884 he was elected Member of Assembly.

STEPHEN LUSH, son of Major William Lush, was born in Albany, January 7th, 1818, and early retired from mercantile life to attend to personal affairs. He represented the City of Albany in the Board of Supervisors three terms, and has occupied several positions in the State departments. He married the daughter of John Gansvoort, and resides in Schenectady.

JOSIAH VAN VRANKEN was born in the town of Niskayuna in 1843. He has been a merchant, manufacturer, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

and Common Council, and Deputy County Clerk. At present he is Deputy Superintendent of the State Banking Department.

ATWELL & DENNINGTON are the leading real estate and insurance firm of the city. Frank J. Atwell attends to the real estate, and H. W. Dennington to the insurance department of the firm. They enjoy a lucrative business and the entire confidence of the community.

C. L. SCOTT conducts the business of real estate and insurance, and is a manager in the office of the *Evening Star*.

Major A. FREEMAN was born in Galway, N. Y., September 30, 1802, and with Captain Richard Freeman, his father, removed to Schenectady when he was seventeen years old. In 1824 he married Miss Elizabeth Clute. In 1825 he became commander of one of the first passenger packet boats on the Erie Canal. In 1831 he was appointed Brigade Inspector of the Fifty-seventh Regiment Militia, with the rank of Major. He owned and kept several popular hotels. Retiring to Schenectady in 1870, he died in his eightieth year. He left two sons: E. L. B. Freeman, of New York, and Charles Freeman, of Schenectady.

PAUL RAMSAY has been connected with the New York Central Railroad for ten years, and is now its ticket agent at Schenectady.

JAMES B. ALEXANDER is also ticket agent in the same office.

A. M. POWERS, photographer, has resided in Schenectady since 1873. In 1879 he opened a photographic gallery at 225 State street, where he has built up a large and lucrative business.

ISAAC I. YATES, at present a retired gentleman, is a graduate of the Annapolis Naval Academy. He retired from naval service as a Lieutenant in 1883. He served in the European, North Atlantic, South Atlantic, North and South Pacific squadrons, and was one of a few saved at the time of the wreck of the Oneida, January 24, 1870.

Among the leading builders and contractors of the city are Joshua Davis, Centre street, near Veeder's Mill; Benjamin Fraking, 530 State street; Thomas Gunn, 16 Romeyn street; Thomas Kilian, 27 Romeyn street; R. W. Lampman, 28 Paige street; John McEncroe, 185 Union street; John McDermott, 66 Romeyn street; John U. Sitterly, Hamilton street, near Paige; P. Van Dyck, 152 Barrett street; A. R. Van Dermoor, 16 Ferry street; F. H. Weston, Hamilton street, corner Lafayette; Alonzo Warner, 24 Park place; J. M. Wendell, Mill lane; and Thomas Harrigan and F. P. Wright.

ROBINE HATHAWAY for a number of years prior to his death was a superintendent on the Erie Canal. He was also a contractor and builder. His son, William, now holds the same position in the canal service formerly occupied by his father.

HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DUANESBURGH.

SITUATION AND BOUNDARIES.

DUANESBURGH is the western town of Schenectady County, and is bounded north by Montgomery County; east by the town of Princeton; south by Albany and Schoharie Counties; and west by Schoharie County.

TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES AND ITEMS OF INTEREST.

This town has an area of about 42,000 acres, and its population in 1880 was 2,995. Its form is irregular, and its situation elevated from 400 to 500 feet above the level of the Hudson at Albany. Its surface consists of an upland broken by the narrow valleys and gullies of small streams. Schoharie Creek forms a portion of the western boundary, and Norman's Kil flows through the south part, entering the Hudson further down, at a point about two and one half miles below Albany. The Bozen Kil, or Mad Creek, one of the branches of Norman's Kil, is a picturesque stream on which is a fall of seventy feet. Corry's Brook and Chucktennuda Creek also do their part in draining the town.

The hills which border upon these streams are steep and in some places rocky. The soil is a stiff, clayey loam with a slight intermixture of gravel. The products are various, but grass succeeds better than grain, and, as a whole, the town is better adapted to pasturage than to tillage. Formerly the dairy interests were of considerable importance, but during late years the principal crops cultivated have been hay, oats, potatoes, corn, buckwheat and rye. But few of the large or small fruits are grown, the demand for home consumption being only supplied. Maria Pond and Featherstonhaugh Lake are two small sheets of water in the northeast part, about 250 feet above the canal. The former is beautiful, especially during the summer, its circumference being about two miles.

This town contains few important manufacturing interests. The Albany and Susquehanna Railroad extends through the south part, with a station at Quaker street. This village and Duanesburgh are stopping places on the old Schenectady Railroad, the terminal points of which are Schenectady and Quaker Street.

Judge Duane, on his withdrawal from active life, selected a plot of ground ten acres in extent, which he gave to the town. This is known as Centre Square or Lot, and was designed as a com-

mons for the village of Duanesburgh. The situation did not prove favorable for the growth of such a settlement, though two churches, a school-house and other buildings mark the locality.

SETTLEMENT.—EARLY PURCHASES.

Large tracts in what is now this town were purchased by different parties between 1736 and 1770. Among the purchasers were Thomas Freeman in 1736; Timothy Bagley in 1737; A. P. and William Crosby in 1738; Walter Butler in 1739; and Jonathan Brewster in 1770. The tract embraced about 60,000 acres, which, with the exception of about 1,000 acres known as Braine's Patent, came into the ownership of Hon. James Duane, either by inheritance from his father or by purchase.

Though, as has been seen, considerable land had been taken up, most of it in bulk, actual settlement practically began about the time of the organization of the town (1765), when Judge Duane contracted with about twenty German families from Pennsylvania to begin a settlement. Sixteen of these families came and located permanently. These lands were rented at the rate of about \$15 per annum on each one hundred acres on perpetual leases, payable in gold and silver. The agents of Sir William Johnson excited prejudice against them, and were instrumental for a time in retarding the progress of their settlement and improvement. Long continued disaffection on the part of tenants, intensified by the anti-rent troubles round about, culminated in the spring of 1858 in the formation in Duanesburgh of an Anti-rent Association, the members of which pledged themselves to pay no rents, to resist all attempts to collect them, and to share equally the expense which any of them might incur in contesting at law the rights of landlords in the matter. The settlement of these difficulties forms a part of the general history of the territory treated in this article.

JUDGE JAMES DUANE.

Hon. JAMES DUANE was born in New York City, February 6, 1733. Having acquired the fitting education, he selected the law for his profession, and entered the office of James Alexander, one of the most eminent counsel of our colonial bar, and the father of the American General, Lord Stirling. He was admitted as an attorney in 1754, and was soon intrusted with a large professional business.

This, known as the Duane Mansion, was built about 1810 by Catharine Livingston Duane, the younger daughter of Judge Duane, upon an eminence overlooking nearly the whole town of Duanesburgh, and but a short distance from the North mansion. It is large and imposing, a piazza seventy feet in length extending along its entire north side. The roof over the piazza, twenty feet high, is supported by eight massive columns, turned out of huge pine trees. Surrounded by ample grounds and sheltered by beautiful shade trees, this is one of the most charming of country residences. Miss Duane occupied it until 1852, when she died, noted for her charity and benevolence. By will it descended to her nephew, James D. Featherstonhaugh, and is the last property of any consequence in the town remaining in the possession of descendants of Judge Duane.

PROMINENT CITIZENS IN 1838 AND 1858.

The following were prominent citizens of Duanesburgh in 1838, as appears from the town records and other authentic documents; Jacob A. Radley, Thomas Holmes, Jr., David Beverage, Charles O. S. Patterson, Samuel Slawson, John Wiltse, Israel R. Green, Bradford Berckley, Thomas W. Patterson, Silas H. Marsh, John Bentley, Ira Bennett, Alexander McMillan, Amos Chapman, Ebenezer Cady, Joseph Braman, Frederick Shute, Leonard Herrick, James Tullock, Jr., Thomas Holmes, Henry I. Smith, David Lander, A. C. Clogston, John Combs, Nathaniel Wiggins, John Tullock, Alexander Liddle, Alexander Eggleston, William McMillan, William Turnbull, Robert Liddle, Lester Mott, Joseph Eggleston, Thaddeus King, George Ingersoll, Lawrence D. Long, William H. Morey, Jacob Coons, John L. Jones, Jesse Abbey, John Shute, John T. Wright, Matthew H. Rector, Philip Paige, David Koon, Alonzo Macomber, Caleb H. Carpenter, James Ferguson, Samuel Ostrander, Ralph W. McDougall, Henry Ladd, Isaac C. Stevens, Kirby Wilber, Shelden J. Hoag, Jacob White, Nathaniel Jenkins, William D. Cary, John Tullock, George E. Cady, Stephen Badgley, Daniel P. Wing, Abraham Montanye, James Clement, Lyman Hows, George Lasher.

Twenty years later the following list comprised most of the leading men in the town. It will be seen that some of the names appear in the preceding list. Henry Sniffers, Charles Dennison, Henry Pulver, John McCally, Charles A. Patterson, James M. Lasher, Elijah Rockwell, John D. Stillwell, Stephen Fuller, J. J. Green, Thomas Freyendall, Hiram Hausett, George Mason, Joseph Bennett, James Macomber, Amos Chapman, Charles Cady, Lovell Doty, Lysander Markle, Elnathan Abrams, Elijah Ladd, William Marsh, Samuel Wingate, William Turnbull, Silas Tripp, Henry J. Smith, Henry Quick, James Liddle, Daniel Wiggins, Charles L. Tullock, Thomas Liddle, Adam Humphrey, Jonathan Soule, William Waddell, William McMillan, John Combs, James Wilkinson, Peter Cameron, Joseph Eggleston, Lemuel Sisson, G. T. McFarland, Albert Morey, David Hughes, William Koons, Charles Ladd, Henry Jones, John

Shutt, Philo Avery, Peter Deyo, Orlando Root, Ira Marsh, M. H. Rector, William S. Gordon, Benjamin Warden, Joel J. Smith, Leonard Gaige, Jonathan Harden, Joseph Moore, Jesse Ketcham, John Ferguson, Elias Gey, Ralph W. McDougall, Charles Davis, Jacob Weaver, Charles Case, James Tullock, Reuben Briggs, David Griffith, Joseph Lason, B. F. Wood, Isaac Quimby, Allen Wilber, Samuel Rulison, Jacob Patterson, Abraham Ball, Alexander Dorn, Anthony De Long, Stephen Badgley, George Badgley, David Underhill.

OTHER EARLY SETTLERS AND MEN OF PROMINENCE.

The DENNISON FAMILY in Duanesburgh dates back to the early settlement of the town. Charles Dennison, the ancestor, was a native of Ireland. He located on the farm now owned and occupied by George L. Dennison, about 1773, and was a soldier in the patriot service during the revolution. He had but one son, Ezekiel, who was born on the homestead, and married a Miss Pulver, living to the advanced age of eighty-four years, and having a family of several children, of whom Charles Dennison, the eldest, was born November 20, 1797. Charles was twice married; first to Maria, daughter of John Thomas, April 10, 1819. She was born November 16, 1793, and died in 1848. His second marriage was to Mary Lockwood, of Princetown. His children by his first marriage were Margaret (deceased), John (living in Iowa), Elizabeth, Charles P. (deceased), Ezekiel (deceased), and George L. and William, both of whom are farmers in Duanesburgh. George L. Dennison was born September 16, 1834, and was married January 9, 1866, to Miss Malinda A. Root, of North Norwich, Oxford County, Canada. Their children are Sherman H. Dennison, born October 3, 1867; John M. Dennison, born September 26, 1868; Sarah M. Dennison, born October 3, 1870; Mary A. Dennison, born August 21, 1872; L. Louise Dennison, born November 20, 1874; Martha E. Dennison, born January 12, 1880; and Margaret A. Dennison, born April 8, 1882.

RALPH MCDUGALL was a son of Alexander McDougall, a native of the Scotch Highlands, and emigrated to America with his father-in-law, Ralph Wesley, about 1774. He first located upon land now occupied by Duanesburgh Four Corners. His son, Ralph McDougall, was born June 6, 1785, and married Abigail, daughter of Benjamin Armstrong. His father-in-law was a native of Albany County, and at that time a farmer in Duanesburgh. Of the nine children of Ralph and Abigail McDougall, Ann married Joseph Rector and is dead; Hannah died, aged twenty-one; Hugh settled on a farm in Duanesburgh, and died there November 7, 1878; John lives in Walworth County, Wisconsin; Benjamin is a farmer living near Binghamton, N. Y.; Alexander located adjacent to the old homestead, married Abigail, daughter of Alexander Gifford, and has a family of six children: Ralph A., Purson R., Elizabeth, John, Wesley and Hannah; Thomas and Abigail are dead; and Ralph W. occupies the old homestead of two hundred acres about a mile east of the village of Duanesburgh,

and is well known and highly respected by his fellow townsmen. Ralph McDougall died June 1, 1857.

The venerable ROBERT LIDDLE, of Duanesburgh, represents one of the earliest families of the town. His grandfather, a Scotchman, emigrated from the shire of Roxburgh about 1775, and settled on the place now owned and occupied by Robert Kelly, in Princetown. He was a mason by trade and did much work in Albany, going thither through the wilderness to earn money with which to pay for his home. He was born in 1741, and had married and had a family before leaving Scotland. His wife, and his sons, Thomas and Alexander, and his daughter, Margaret, accompanied him. His daughter Elizabeth was born during the voyage. Christie and John, other children, were born after the establishment of the family in this country. Of this generation none are now living. Robert Liddle is the oldest son of Alexander and Mary (Gifford) Liddle and was born January 12, 1803. He has been three times married. His first wife was Sally Smith, daughter of Charles Smith, of Duanesburgh. Her children were Alexander, Mary, Abigail, Ann E., Charles, Thomas, Abram S., and Robert W. For a second wife he married Sarah, daughter of John Robinson, of North Duanesburgh, who bore children named Agnes, McDermott, and Janet. His third wife, now living, was Janet Young, of Duanesburgh. The Liddle family is both numerous and highly respected throughout Schenectady County.

EZEKIEL TRIPP was among the earlier settlers of the town. With his family of four sons and four daughters, he emigrated from Rhode Island to Dutchess County about 1789. There he remained about a year, when he removed to Duanesburgh, and located upon the present homestead of Daniel C. Hoag. This farm, then comprising 110 acres with small improvements, he purchased for \$30. His wife was Mary Lawton. Benjamin Tripp was their oldest son. He married Hannah Deuel, and located on the farm of 107½ acres now owned by Darius Tripp, a grandson of the pioneer. They had a family of ten children. Silas Tripp was the seventh in order of birth. He married Martha A. Stevens, and succeeded to the ownership of the home. Of the children of Silas Tripp, Darius and Emily are living on the old Tripp homestead; Jedediah S. is in Wisconsin; Ezekiel, Mariette, Samuel B. and Ursula are deceased; Mercy A. is Mrs. I. G. Quimby, of Duanesburgh; and Seneca is in Minnesota.

WILLIAM LADD was one of the pioneer settlers in the vicinity of Braman's Corners. With his two sons, Thomas and William, Jr., he came from Barrington, Mass., in 1781, and cleared about three acres of heavy forest at the spot now occupied by the farm buildings of Mr. Walthousen, being lot 160 Duane survey, and commonly known as the Old Ladd Homestead. This land was cleared, plowed and planted to wheat without the aid of team, plow or drag. That same year a small log cabin was erected, and late in the fall

Mr. Ladd and his sons returned to Barrington, Mass., retracing their tree-marked way to their old home. They came back in the spring of 1782, bringing with them Mrs. Ladd and other children named John, Levi, Sally, Betsey, Susan, Hannah, Polly, Nancy, Elizabeth, and Lemuel. In health, size and muscular strength, this generation of Ladds was a remarkable one. The ancestors of William Ladd were of pure English blood, and he, with two brothers, emigrated from England in 1633, and located at Saybrook, Mass. He was married to Elizabeth Vining, in Abington, Mass., November 4, 1776. John D. Ladd, of Schenectady, is a son of John Ladd, Jr., and Mary Disbrow, his wife. John Ladd, Jr., was a son of John Ladd, son of William Ladd, the pioneer in Duanesburgh. Thus it will be seen that John D. Ladd is of the fourth generation of the family in Schenectady County. He was born in Duanesburgh, October 13, 1827, and until 1862, when he removed to Schenectady, lived continuously in his native town with the exception of about two years, during which he was a salesman in a dry goods store in Burtonville. In 1866 he entered the employ of William McCammus & Co., and has held the position ever since, though the old firm has been succeeded by T. H. Reeves & Co. He married Amanda, daughter of Joseph H. Jones, of Duanesburgh, who was born September 21, 1833, and has three children, as follows: Nettie, born December 11, 1862; Frank, born May 14, 1872; and Justus, born February 11, 1875.

HENRY SHUTE was born in Chatham, Columbia County, N. Y., October 13, 1769. He married Sarah Irish, September 25, 1788, and doubtless located in Duanesburgh that same year, on the farm now owned and occupied by his two grandsons, F. W. and J. H. Shute. He had a family of four sons and four daughters, named Daniel, Henry, Betsey, Ruth, Eunice, Cynthia, John, and Frederick, all of whom are dead. Frederick W., John H., and Luther Shute represent the third generation in the town, and are sons of John Shute who was the seventh son of Henry, and married for his first wife Fannie Norton, who died, leaving three sons and a daughter, named Jensen, Jerome, William, and Sarah A. Of these Jerome only survives, living at Ballston Springs, N. Y. His second wife was Prudence, daughter of Asaph Eddy, of Albany. The latter was born in 1758, and married Sarah Moon, who was born of New England stock in 1763, and whose ancestry in the line of the Moons is traceable back to about 1693. William Shute, Henry Shute's father, served under Lieutenant Washington at the time of Braddock's defeat, and was a daring soldier.

JOHN L. JONES is one of the oldest residents of Duanesburgh, and is a son of one of the early settlers of the town. His father, Lewis Jones, came from Westchester County in 1787, and located near Braman's Corners on the farm Mr. Jones now owns and occupies. He was a revolutionary soldier, and married Eunice Ketcham

while yet a resident of his native county, and had nine children, named Ephraim, Jonathan, Nathaniel, Hannah, William, John L., Benjamin, Polly, Joseph H., and Lewis. John L. Jones was born December 28, 1798, and married Amy Bagley. She died, leaving a daughter named Polly Ann, and he married Catharine Koons, by whom he has eight children, named Julia, John E., Augusta, William, Amy, Lewis, Janet, and De Witt. His farm consists of 175 acres.

WILLIAM TURNBULL was the first of the name in Duaneburgh. He located on the property now in possession of Charles Titball, 100 acres taken on a lease. George Turnbull was a son of this pioneer, and grandfather of John L. Turnbull, the well known merchant and present town clerk. He was a native Scotchman. A professional gardener, he worked in the royal gardens, and was a man of prominence. His ancestry is traceable in a direct line to the Douglasses, a great and powerful Scottish house. He married Jane Kennedy, lived to the close of his life on the homestead, and raised a family of three sons and three daughters. William Turnbull succeeded to the ownership of the homestead. He is remembered as a thrifty farmer and a popular townsman. He never married, and is dead. James, the second son, began life as an employee on the Union College Grounds under President Nott, and by economy and industry was enabled to enter mercantile life. He was a flourishing merchant at Esperance and Burtonville, Montgomery County, and later was a farmer on the George Lasher Place, where he died in 1858. He married Isabel, daughter of Alexander McIntosh, an early Scotch-American settler of Princetown. They had a family of nine children, eight of whom grew up: Jane, now Mrs. James Warner, of Redwing, Minn.; Arseneth, now Mrs. Burr Deuel, of Winona, Minn.; George A. (deceased), who served two years during the Rebellion as captain of Co. A., 134th N. Y. Volunteer Infantry; John L.; Rebecca, who became Mrs. T. Romeyn Herrick; A. G. W., a farmer in Dakota; William J., a partner with John L., who married Alice Jarvis; Isabel, living in Duaneburgh; and Helen, who died at the age of two years. The family has always figured conspicuously in the social and business circles of the town, and, in addition to the other important trusts which have been confided to him, John L. Turnbull has been chosen Supervisor of Duaneburgh.

T. ROMEYN HERRICK represents one of the oldest and most honored families of the town. His grandfather, Judge Jonathan Herrick, was born in Dutchess County, of Welsh and English parentage, in 1760, and located in Duaneburgh in 1792, on the property now occupied by John Holmes. He married Patience Palmer, of Dutchess County, by whom he had two sons (James and Smith) and two daughters (Mary and Amanda). James located on the present George Bender Place, and married Julia, daughter of John Sherburn, and had ten sons and two daughters, of whom T. Romeyn Herrick is the eighth son and the tenth in the order

of birth. He lived on the homestead until he was about twenty-five years of age, when he married Rebecca Turnbull. He engaged in business in Albany, and later was for several years in New York City. In 1875 he returned to his native town, where he has since lived, and during the past eight years held the office of Justice of the Peace.

IRA ESTES, merchant at Quaker Street, is a native of Duaneburgh, as was his father. The latter—Benjamin T. Estes—was born on the Lister Farm in 1791. He was a carpenter and a Quaker minister, and was a regular attendant at the Quaker Street meeting for about fifty years. He was a son of Thomas Estes, one of the original settlers of the Duane tract, and doubtless a native of Rhode Island. He married Rebecca, daughter of Enoch Hoag, an early resident of the town and a member of another prominent Quaker family, and they had six children, of whom Ira Estes is the oldest living. He was reared a farmer, has been sixteen years a stock dealer and twelve years a merchant. He has been twice married, and has several children. He is justly rated as one of the leading men of the town.

HON. ALONZO MACOMBER was born in Chesterfield, Essex County, N. Y., in 1806. He is a mechanic by trade, and as such worked during his earlier years. In 1828 he located on a farm about half a mile southwest of Quaker Street, and there lived until he took up his present residence in 1846. In 1850 he entered upon a mercantile career, in which he continued successfully several years. He has served his fellow-citizens as Member of Assembly one term, as Assistant Internal Revenue Assessor seven years, as Justice of the Peace about twenty-four years, and as Postmaster one year. He retired from active life several years since. He married Eliza, daughter of Nathaniel Wilber (deceased), and has a son, who is a successful druggist, located at No. 42 Hudson avenue, Albany.

MELVILLE MEAD, one of the most enterprising young merchants of Schenectady County, is a son of Daniel and a grandson of Zaccheus Mead, both deceased. The children of Zaccheus Mead were Stephen, Zaccheus, Jr., John, Jehial, Nathaniel, Titus, Mary Jane (who married J. Shelden), and Daniel. The latter was in early life a money lender. Later he engaged in carriage-making at Quaker Street, in company with W. R. McGraw. His son, Arthur, was also for a time connected with this business, which was discontinued in 1881. Daniel Mead was twice married, first to Miss Lucretia Wait, by whom he had one son, Arthur, and afterward to Mary J. Haight, of Dutchess County. Melville Mead was the only issue of the marriage. Mr. Mead died May 6, 1884, aged seventy-five years. His widow survives him. Melville Mead is a practical tinsmith. He began business on his own account several years ago. He occupies the old W. S. Lang stand at Quaker Street and does a general trade, including tinware, silverware, agricultural implements, stoves, furniture and other articles, also doing jobbing in tin gutters and roofing and similar supplies.

Another representative man is CORNELL W. BRONK. Since the year 1797, when Abram Bronk settled on the present farm of A. Bronk, the family have figured more or less conspicuously in the business and social development of the town. He came from Columbia County and was of Holland Dutch parentage. He married Catharine Radley, or Ratcliff, as the name was formerly spelled. Nicholas Bronk was a son of Abram, and married Eunice Wiltse, and was the father of Cornell W., Margaret, Catharine, Eunice, and Isabel Bronk, of whom the first mentioned is the only one living in the county. Cornell W. Bronk married Elizabeth, a daughter of John Levey, of Princetown, and they have five children: Catharine, now Mrs. John Marclay, of Mariaville, John L., Abram N., William J., and Nancy E. Mr. Bronk has served his town as assessor six years. Abram N. Bronk, of Mariaville, succeeded the firm of Lasher & Son, in partnership with J. A. Bradshaw, in 1879, and in 1881 purchased his partner's interest.

His stock consists of a full line of such goods as are to be found in all important country stores. He obtained his first mercantile experience as a clerk during nine years with Lasher & Son. He married Maria, daughter of Marcus Delamater, of Mariaville, and has two children, named Berdella and Emmett. Another, named Clifton, died in infancy.

G. W. CONOVER has been a resident of Duanesburgh about twenty-five years. He was born in Florida, Montgomery County, March 19, 1812. His father, Marcellus Conover, was a native of the town of Glenn, and was a son of Isaac Conover, who served as an aid-de-camp to General Washington during the revolution. Mr. Conover's ancestors were Holland Dutch and first located in New Jersey. The name as now spelled is an English modification of the old Dutch name of Covenhoven, by which members of the family were known not longer than a generation ago. Isaac Covenhoven and his brother Abraham were bold patriots and daring soldiers during the struggle for American independence, as is attested by passages in Sims' "Border Wars of Schoharie." George W. Conover married Sarah M., daughter of J. P. Rodley, of Florida, Montgomery County, and they have one son, John M. Conover. They live at Scotch Church, where they own a fine farm of 265 acres.

ABRAHAM DEVENBURG is an aged and respected citizen. He was born in Knox, Albany County, November 2, 1807. He was one of the founders and a liberal supporter of the Free Dutch Church of Mariaville. He owns and, in company with his son, John, operates the Devenburg Mills, the only circular saw-mill in the town. His wife was Ann Lloyd. Their son, John Devenburg, was born June 27, 1845, and learned the trade of carriage-making at Port Jackson, N. Y. He carries on the business of carriage-making at Mariaville. July 3, 1866, he married Martha A., daughter of William H. How, of Port Jackson. They have four children, named Ettie L., Ann M., William H., and

Satie. Harrison P., another son, died young. Mr. Devenburg is known as an enterprising and progressive business man.

EBENEZER WRIGHT was born in the town of Westerlo, Albany County, January 27, 1800. His father was John Wright, his mother, Susan, daughter of Captain Nehemiah Bassett. His grandfather was Mathew Wright, and his grandmother Esier Lewis, who was born in Chatham, Conn. Some years before the revolution, Mathew Wright and wife, with their sons, Daniel, John, Earl, Mathew, Thomas, and Ebenezer, removed from Sinsbury, Conn., to Sharon, Schoharie County. He, with Daniel and Earl, shortly afterward removed to Otsego County, N. Y. He lived to be 103 years old and his wife 90 years. Thomas enlisted in the patriot army in the war of the revolution; was taken prisoner and confined in a British ship in Boston harbor, where he died from starvation with a chip in his mouth, with which he was vainly trying to satisfy the cravings of hunger. John Wright, the father of Ebenezer, was in both the revolutionary war and war of 1812. After his marriage he moved to Albany County and afterward to Schoenectady County. His children were Thomas, John Y., Justus, Nehemiah, Samuel, Anna, Fanny, Ebenezer, and Jane. Ebenezer married Susan, daughter of Olive Briggs, and settled in Quaker Street. He learned the carpenter's trade. As a workman, "Boss Wright," as he was called, had no superior in the town. There still remain many specimens of his work in buildings and furniture which show the ability of the builder. He was the undertaker for the neighborhood. When he began this business the Friends, or Quakers, who composed the largest part of the inhabitants in that part of the town, demanded Puritanical simplicity, and many of the coffins were of pine-wood, not stained or varnished, without handles or ornaments. The height of extravagance was reached when for pine the native cherry was substituted. Instead of varnish, wax was used in finishing the coffins. He lived to see the time when the plain customs of the ancient Friends were forgotten, when ornamented and expensive caskets, and a hearse to carry them, were in as much demand from their descendants as from the "World's People." He was a man of sterling integrity and positive convictions. He was an earnest supporter of the Abolition party, and with John Sheldon, James Sheldon and Reuben Briggs, acted as agents for the "Underground Railroad," assisting fleeing slaves on their way to Canada and freedom. The next station west was the house of Mr. Griggs, a miller at Schoharie. He was one of the Washingtonian temperance workers, and Quaker Street thirty-five to forty years ago was noted for the intelligence, temperate life and industry of its inhabitants. Upon the organization of the Republican party he became identified with it, and was honored by his townsmen with several positions of trust. A champion of the unfortunate the poor, and the oppressed, he was sometimes called fanatical, but even his greatest opponents unite in pronouncing him honest and sincere.

Doctor P. A. BRUMAGIN, who for about thirty-six years has been a successful practicing physician at Mariaville, was born in Root, Montgomery County, February 4, 1816, of which town his parents, John and Elizabeth (Carr) Brumagin, were natives and life-long residents. He attended school in Root and received a higher education at the Ames Academy. He studied medicine with Dr. Thompson Burton, of Charlestown, attended lectures at Albany Medical College three successive terms, and graduated in the class of 1844. He at once began practice at Currytown, Montgomery County, and in 1848 located in Mariaville. He married Mary, daughter of Albert and Susan McMaster, of Root, Montgomery County, and has two children, Patience, now the wife of Peter Turnbull, of Albany, and Charles, a resident of Florida, Montgomery County.

Doctor P. I. DODGE, of Duanesburgh, is a native of Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin. He was born April 13, 1857, and is a son of Rev. C. F. and Catharine (Darling) Dodge of that place. He attended the public schools of Palmyra and took an academic course at Big Rapids, Michigan. Later he was a student at the Indiana Northern Normal School. He studied medicine at the Bennett Medical College, graduating in 1880. After attending the Eclectic Medical College of New York in 1883 and 1884, he entered upon his practice at Mariaville under auspicious circumstances.

JAMES McMILLEN, deceased, was the progenitor of a numerous family in this section of New York. He was born in Scotland in 1785, and in 1792 emigrated to America with his parents, locating in New Scotland, Albany County. Marrying Sarah Jane, he located on the present James Cullings Place in Duanesburgh. They had six sons and two daughters named as follows: John, James, Isaac, Alexander, William, Samuel, Mary, and Sarah. William succeeded to the ownership of the old homestead. He married Leah, daughter of William and Margaret (Walker) Allen. Their children were: James L., Margaret I. (now Mrs. James Cullings), Samuel, who lives in Livingston County, Michigan; and William (deceased). Hugh McMillen, a prominent farmer of Duanesburgh, is the only one living of the three children of Isaac McMillen, son of William.

DAVID W. WALPOLE is the youngest son of Richard Walpole, deceased. Richard Walpole emigrated from Ireland, where he was born, to America about 1836, and located as a farmer in Princetown. Removing to Duanesburgh he erected the Walpole Mill in 1844, and managed it until 1873, when he removed to Oswego County, where he died, aged 79 years, in 1881. He was an active business man, and as a citizen held high in the public esteem, as is attested by the fact that he was elected Justice of the Peace, serving thirteen years in succession. His wife was Margaret, daughter of Thomas King, who bore him eight children. In 1873, David W. Walpole purchased the mill property, which he has since greatly improved by the introduction of broom-handle machinery and a

cider-mill and otherwise, doing a good business in the different branches. He married Julia, daughter of William B. and Martha (Barrows) Dorn, of Duanesburgh, and has three children, Mary Belle, Martha J., and Mansfield B.

WILLIAM J. GARDENIER, the present merchant at Braman's Corners, is a grandson of William S. Gardenier, who located in Duanesburgh on William J. Gardenier's farm about 1830, coming from Columbia County, where he was born. Samuel W. Gardenier was one of the ablest of his family of three sons and six daughters. He married Mary M., daughter of John Clayton, of Charlestown, Montgomery County. Their children were: William J., born July 18, 1847, and John A., born March 31, 1854, now living on the homestead. William J. Gardenier made farming his principal business until the spring of 1884, when he opened his store. He carries a well assorted general stock, and aims to do a cash business at the lowest possible prices. He married Miss Ellen Nethaway, of Duanesburgh, but formerly of Schoharie County, and they have five children, named Judson, Wilmer, Arthur, Mary E., and Martha.

BENJAMIN WILTSIE, of Mariaville, was born on the farm in Duanesburgh now owned by William and John De Graff, in 1824. His father was John B. Wiltzie and his grandfather Cornelius Wiltzie, who came from Dutchess County as one of the early settlers of the town. The pioneer had a family of four sons and three daughters, of whom John B. was the third, born May 26, 1803. The latter married Maria, daughter of Abraham and Rebecca (Van Vechten) Dorn, in 1823. Benjamin Wiltzie located at Mariaville in 1853. In 1856 he took possession of the Wiltzie House, which he has since conducted. He married Jane S., daughter of Hiram Hansit, who was for many years postmaster of Mariaville, and has four children: Emma H. (now Mrs. A. J. Bradshaw), John B., Emmet H., and Ann M.

BENJAMIN GAIGE was one of nine brothers, all of whom settled in Albany and Schenectady Counties within a circuit of ten miles. Their parents, Joseph and Mary Mortimer Gaige, came from England. Benjamin Gaige came in 1791 from Quaker Hill, Dutchess County, to the property now of Asa M. Gaige, a great-grandson. He brought with him a family of six children. Of these, Phebe married Henderson Smith and removed to Western New York; Ebenezer and Mortimer removed to Silver Lake, Susquehanna County; Abram removed to Pennsylvania and thence to Otsego County, where he died; Miriam married Abram Coon and removed with him to Broome County, where both died; and Jane became the wife of Isaac Stevens and lived at Quaker Street and later at Kirkwood, N. Y., where she died. Five other children were born in Duanesburgh. Of these, Asa B. settled on the homestead, where he died May 2, 1869; Benjamin removed to Pennsylvania and thence to Michigan, where he died; Philip is living at an advanced age at Quaker Street; Mary married and located in Root, Montgomery County; and Lydia married John Lake and

removed to Orleans County, where she ended her days. Isaac B. Gaige was twice married, first to Joanna, daughter of Joseph and Apphia (Mosher) Lason, of Columbia County, who died August 27, 1833, and secondly to Margaret, daughter of Abram and Helen (Ball) Sternberg. By the first marriage were born children named Walter, Ebenezer, Joseph L., and Phebe; by the second marriage children named Lucy B. and Helen M. The latter married Joseph Wright, of Brooklyn, N. Y. Joseph L. Gaige, the third son of Isaac B. Gaige, married Eliza J., daughter of Asa and Mary (Birdsall) Marshall, of Westchester County. He died in 1870, leaving two sons, Asa M. and Isaac B., both living in Duanesburgh. Asa M. married Fanny G., daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah J. (Forge) Estes, of Utica, N. Y., and they have a daughter named Jennie, born July 1, 1884.

ELNATHAN ABRAMS settled about one mile east of Braman's Corners about 1839. He was born in Florida, N. Y., and married Anna, daughter of Solomon Strong, one of the pioneers of that town. They had three sons: Solomon, John K., and J. Danforth Abrams. Solomon Abrams was born near Swan's Corners, Florida, N. Y., February 10, 1824; married Charlotte, daughter of John Victory, of Duanesburgh; and has been a resident of Schenectady about thirty years. John K., a school teacher, lives at Little Falls, N. Y. J. Danforth enlisted and served in the United States Army in the late war, and died, in service, of fever, November 12, 1864. He married Susan, daughter of Elijah Ladd, who survives him, living near Braman's Corners. They had two sons, one of whom is Dr. A. E. Abrams, of Hartford, Conn., and the other, Elijah D., is a machinist in the Ellis Locomotive Works, Schenectady. Anthony Abrams, great-grandfather of the present generation of Abramses, was a native-born German, who emigrated to America when a young man and married a Miss Mickle. They had a son named Andrew, who was drowned at about the age of twenty-one years; another named John, who was the grandfather of Solomon and the father of Elnathan Abrams; and a daughter who died unmarried. The former orthography of the name was Abrahams.

Rev. DAVID COOK DAVIS is a son of David Davis, of New Hampshire, and was born in Stratford, that State, September 10, 1815. His mother was Mary Cook. He attended the Wolfsbury Academy, N. H., until the death of his mother, when he was obliged to abandon school for a time. In 1842 he began to study for the ministry at Boston, and in 1845 began preaching the Gospel at Dedham, Mass., and continued the work at other places in New Hampshire and New York. From 1851 to 1874 he was engaged in secular business in New York City. At the latter date he was called to the pastorate of the Church of the Redeemer (Universalist) at Braman's Corners, where he remained several years. He married Euphemia, daughter of John and Isabella (Russell) Murray, June 14, 1835. The fruits of this union have been David

M. Davis, of Trenton, N. J.; Alexander M. Davis, of Boston, Mass.; Mary E. (Mrs. George Turnbull); Isabella R. (deceased); Jessie (Mrs. Dr. A. E. Abrams, of Hartford, Conn.); and Eliza H. (Mrs. G. N. Banker, of Duanesburgh). Mr. Davis has for some years lived the quiet and honored life of a retired clergyman.

Rev. DAVID B. HALL, of Duanesburgh, was born March 16, 1812, at Middle Granville, Washington County, N. Y. He spent two years in study at Burr Seminary at Manchester, Vt., and four years at Union College, Schenectady, where he graduated in 1839. He studied theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J., and was ordained to preach the Gospel by the Association of Pawlet, Vt. He has labored with success in several churches in connection with the Reformed Dutch Church of America, among them the Reformed Dutch Church of Princetown, Schenectady County, of which he was pastor several years. He was many years compiling an elaborate genealogy of the Hall family of New England, which has resulted in a creditable work of 800 large octavo pages, and containing many valuable portraits. He was married April 14, 1856, to Jane Eliza, daughter of Mulford and Rosanna (Hitchcock) Dayton, of Middle Granville, N. Y. His children, born in Princetown, are Mary Jane, born August 31, 1857; Sarah E. D., born October 11, 1862; and Hattie E. M., born April 15, 1868.

SAMUEL BROWN, an old and respected citizen of the town, was born in Saratoga County in 1807. His parents were Daniel and Louisa (Palmer) Brown, his father a native of Saratoga County, and his mother of Stockbridge, Mass. Samuel was the second of a family of five children. He married Jane, daughter of William Rose, of Saratoga County, and has one son, named Samuel, living at home. He owns a farm of sixty-five acres, purchased of William I. McIntosh.

WILLIAM CHADWICK is a representative farmer. He was born in Rensselaerville, Albany County, a son of John Chadwick and a grandson of Aaron Chadwick, who was originally from Cape Cod, Mass., where his ancestors located as emigrants from England in the days of the old Cape Cod Colony. Locating for a time in Dutchess County, Aaron Chadwick removed to Otsego County, and soon afterward to Albany County. John Chadwick, his youngest child, married Ann, daughter of Caleb Spencer, of Westerloo, and had five sons: Henry (deceased); Aaron; William, who married Martha, daughter of Joel Moore, of Duanesburgh; E. Spencer, a merchant at St. Paul, Nebraska, where he was a pioneer; and Thomas R., a farmer near Rensselaerville, Albany County.

JOHN O. BECKER has been a resident of Duanesburgh since 1862. He was born in Sharon, Schoharie County, June 20, 1824, a son of David and Elizabeth (Bellinger) Becker, both natives of the town of Middlebury, N. Y., he of the second generation from Holland and she of German ancestry, their parents having been among the first settlers of Middlebury, where they lived in the wilder-

ness during the most perilous period of the revolution, subjected to the many hardships of those times which tried men's souls. John O. Becker left home at about the age of fourteen, alone and penniless. He found employment for a time on public works at Fort Plain, and, accumulating some means, purchased property in Florida, Montgomery County, where he lived until his removal to Duanesburgh. In 1843 he married Margaret Cooley. She died in 1844, leaving a son, David. In 1847 Mr. Becker married Sophia Casey, now deceased. David Becker married Miss Melissa Levey, of Mariaville, and has a son and a daughter.

LULY PATTERSON, the founder of Pattersonville, was born in Duanesburgh, in 1812, and died February 19, 1881. He married Adeline Montgomery and she bore him five children, as follows: Alexander, a resident of Amsterdam, N. Y.; William H. Patterson, of Pattersonville; Lina (Mrs. S. L. Marlett); Clara (deceased); and Frances (wife of J. W. Olney, who is connected with the West Shore Railway). He located at the little hamlet which now bears his name, in 1856, and bought the John T. Hoffman property. A man of energy and enterprise, he was instrumental in establishing a post-office at that point, and he soon erected a store, hotel and several dwellings, and opened quite an extensive trade. He was Supervisor of the town, and took an active interest in all public affairs. His son, William H. Patterson, began trade in 1884, his building and stock are new and fresh, and he is a prominent business man. He married Gertrude Wiley, who died, leaving two children named Harriet and Seely. Bina Bradford was his second wife, and died without issue. His present wife was Gertrude O. Dickerman, by whom he has a son, Freeman M.

JOSEPH GREEN, of Green's Corners, represents one of the old families of the town, Robert Green and John Manning, his brother-in-law, having located at the Corners about 1780. They came from Dutchess County. Sarah Manning was Robert Green's wife. She bore him six sons, five of whom lived to advanced age. John M. Green was their second son, born August 11, 1792, on the homestead at Green's Corners. He married Mary, daughter of Philip Radley, an early settler in Montgomery County, and located on a farm adjoining the homestead and there lived until December 16, 1883, when he died. He had two children, Susannah (deceased) and Joseph, who owns both his father's and grandfather's homesteads, aggregating 235 acres. He married Janet, daughter of William Lendrum, of Duanesburgh, and they have one son, John.

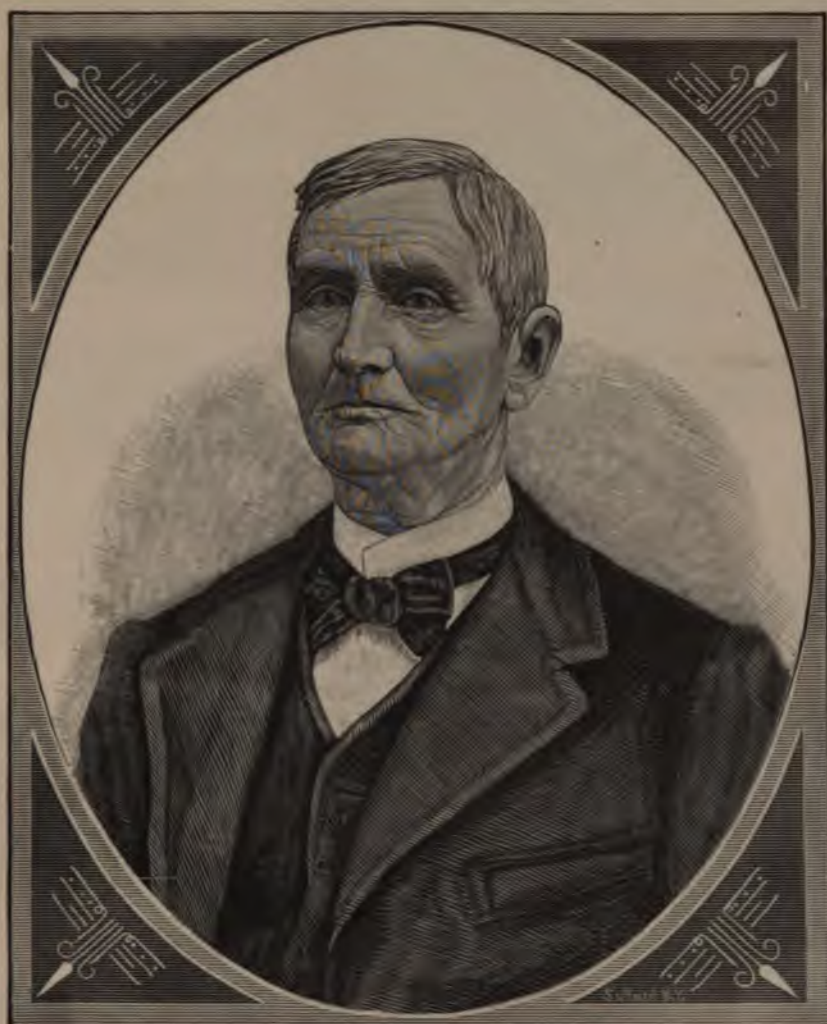
JAMES FROST, Sr., was born in Easton, Washington County, N. Y., in 1783, and when a boy came with his father's family to Duanesburgh. His father, Lot Frost, came to the town soon enough to be placed in the catalogue of the earlier settlers. The boy, taking naturally to books and scientific knowledge, educated himself, and for a time was a schoolmaster. In the meantime he had become

an expert surveyor, and, in connection with the able surveyor Zoller, he made numerous important surveys. He was the engineer of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad; made many valuable and extensive surveys in Albany, Schenectady, Schoharie, Franklin and Montgomery Counties, N. Y.; and laid out the City of Elizabeth, N. J. He married Mary, daughter of Major Marsh, and had five sons and five daughters, three of whom are now living: General D. M. Frost, of St. Louis, who served the Confederate cause during the rebellion; Mrs. Daniel Yost, of Fort Plain; and Miss M. Louisa Frost, of Mariaville.

The late Doctor JOSEPH BRAMAN came from Tolland County, Conn., to Esperance in 1811, and from Esperance in 1814 to Duanesburgh. He was a son of Joseph and Anna (Jenks) Braman, the former of whom was born in 1760 and the latter in 1764. Their children were born in the following order: Bartimeus, 1786; Isaac, 1788; Fanny, 1790; Joseph, 1792; Betsey, 1795; Sophia, 1797; Orsamus, 1799; Ephraim, 1801; John J., 1803; Aurora, 1806; and Orrin, 1808. Dr. Joseph Braman came of age in 1813, at which time he was made a Mason. He taught school and read medicine, and for many years was a leading physician and citizen. He died March 24, 1885. He was twice married, first to Rachel Shute, and second to Catharine Stewart. Their children were born as follows: Catharine, 1816; Elvira, 1818; Emma, 1822; Mariette, 1825; Delos, 1829; and Harriet, 1833. Doctor Delos Braman graduated from the Albany Medical College in 1852. He practiced his profession three years with his father, in Duanesburgh, and twenty years in the West, when he returned to Duanesburgh. In 1859 he married Miss Agnes Tanner, of Wisconsin. They have two children, named Anna and Joseph.

COLONEL JOHN D. WOOD.

This well known gentleman, who has been a life-long resident of Duanesburgh, is a son of Doctor John Wood, who was an early and highly esteemed physician and surgeon in this section. Doctor Wood was the oldest son of Benjamin Wood, once a farmer in Wright, Schoharie County, who settled there in 1789, married a Miss Tygert, and had nine sons and three daughters. He studied medicine with Doctor Williams, in Knox, Albany County, and came to Duanesburgh about 1808, locating on the turnpike near the present residence of I. R. T. Wood, and beginning the practice of his profession in partnership with Doctor Peter Delamater. This association was dissolved a year or two later, Doctor Wood continuing his practice alone and enjoying an extensive patronage for about forty years. He married Martha, daughter of Robert Dennison, of Knox, Albany County, who was a native of Mystic, Conn. She bore him eleven children. Of these, Eunice died April 1, 1831; Datus died February 12, 1817; E. Darwin died April 23, 1840; Edwin died August 24, 1843; Robert died January 28, 1846; Benjamin F., a merchant at Duanesburgh Corners,



John Wood



Jacob J. De Forest

near the old homestead, and at Esperance, N. Y., died May 11, 1882, aged seventy-one years; Ada L. is Mrs. Brice Jarvis, of Duanesbergh; Angeline L. is Mrs. William E. Knight, of Binghamton, N. Y.; another daughter is Mrs. Henry Sherburne, of Esperance, N. Y.; Isaac R. T., who lives on the old homestead, married Clarissa M. Shoudy, of Guilderland, and has a son named Edwin; and John D. is a farmer, whose possessions adjoin the old homestead. The latter, whose name heads this sketch and whose portrait appears in this work, was Colonel of the 188th Regiment New York State Militia, succeeding Colonel Allen, and was formerly one of the best known and most popular of the old time military officers. His regiment was disbanded in 1835. Advanced in years, he lives a quiet and retired life. His friends are many and his friendships have been accounted hearty and helpful. His interest in the welfare and prosperity of the town has been earnest and unflagging, and all measures promising the enhancement of the public weal have ever received his willing and substantial support. The Wood estate comprises 240 acres.

COLONEL JACOB J. DE FOREST.

The De Forest family, who were of Huguenot descent, came to America about the year 1620 and located on Long Island. There were three brothers, one of whom went to New England, one to Western New York, and one located in Greenbush, opposite Albany. From the latter branch Mr. Jacob J. De Forest, of Duanesburgh, is descended. His grandfather, Jacob De Forest, came from Greenbush to Duanesburgh about 1780, and moved to Schenectady late in life and died there. His sons were named Jacob, Obediah L., Martin, John, and James. Jacob, the eldest, born October 23, 1797, married Anna Schermerhorn, born August 14, 1799. They had twelve children, of whom Jacob J. De Forest was the first born, October 10, 1820. Mr. De Forest died June 19, 1882, and his wife April 27, 1851. Jacob J. De Forest was born at the old Schuylenberg mansion, the birth-place of his mother and for two hundred years the homestead of his grandfather's family, about a mile south of Schenectady. He was educated at the Schenectady Lyceum, under the

tutelage of Rev. Dr. Huntington. He taught a winter term of school in Rotterdam, and afterward apprenticed himself to learn the carpenter trade with James A. Van Vorst, then a prominent carpenter and builder of Schenectady. His apprenticeship concluded in 1844, and in 1845 he removed to Albany and engaged in contracting and building on his own account, continuing successfully till 1851, in the meantime erecting many large buildings and business blocks. In 1851 he formed a copartnership with R. J. Patten and Benjamin Myers, under the firm name of De Forest, Patten & Co., and leased the Kenwood saw-mills and opened a lumber yard at the corner of Columbia and Quay streets, at the extreme southern point of the old lumber district. The firm did a large business until the expiration of the term of their copartnership in 1858, when Mr. De Forest retired from active business.

Mr. De Forest had long had a liking for military life. December 28, 1855, he was commissioned Engineer of the Twenty-fifth Regiment of the Eleventh Brigade, Third Division of the Militia of the State of New York. July 1, 1856, he was promoted to be the Engineer of the Eleventh Brigade. June 9, 1858, he was commissioned Inspector of the Eleventh Brigade, which position he held until the outbreak of the rebellion. In April, 1861, he was placed in charge of the old Adams House recruiting rendezvous in Albany, and served there until the following August, during which time the first thirty volunteer regiments of the State were recruited and organized. During the month last mentioned he was ordered to repair to Oswego, and there organize a regiment which was designated as the Eighty-first Regiment New York Volunteers, and of which he was elected colonel by unanimous vote; but, in deference to Colonel Edwin Rose, of Long Island, he withdrew in the latter's favor. February 19, 1862, he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the regiment with rank from December 20th preceding, when the regiment was mustered into the United States service. July 19, 1862, he was promoted to the colonelcy of the regiment, with rank from July 7th.

The regiment formed a part of the Fourth Corps of the Army of the Peninsular, under command of General Keyes, and participated in all of the service incident to McClellan's Peninsular Campaign. At the battle of Fair Oaks, May 31, 1862, Lieutenant-Colonel De Forest, at the time temporarily in command of the regiment, was shot through the left lung. He was sent to the Douglas Hospital at Washington, and when he became convalescent was granted a furlough to return home. He recovered his health in a measure and rejoined his comrades September 1, 1862. On the 5th day of that month he was mustered as colonel of his regiment under authority of his commission previously issued as above mentioned. About January 1, 1863, the command to which the Eighty-first Regiment was attached was ordered into North Carolina and took part in the active service which followed in that section. Thence the command was sent to Beaufort, South Carolina, and attached to the command

of General Hunter. March 30th a reorganization of the forces was effected, preparatory to the siege of Charleston, under which Colonel De Forest was placed in command of the Second Brigade of Heckman's Division, Eighteenth Army Corps. After the conclusion of that unsuccessful attempt against the Confederate stronghold, the Union forces gathered in the vicinity were ordered to Morehead City, N. C., where the Eighty-first Regiment and other troops did garrison duty until late in the fall. During this interim, Colonel De Forest was placed in command of the sub-district of Beaufort. The forces there were sent to Fortress Monroe, and the Eighty-first Regiment and a company of cavalry were ordered by General Benj. F. Butler to Northwest Landing, Va., where they were engaged in a desultory warfare with guerillas until April 1, 1864, when the regiment returned home on veteran furlough, having re-enlisted for three years, at the expiration of which it joined Grant's army and participated in all of the campaigns, from the battle of Cold Harbor (June 1st, 2d and 3d) until the close of the war. In the memorable and bloody engagement just mentioned, the Eighty-first Regiment was literally cut up, no less than seven out of nine of the company commanders falling in the fight, and Colonel De Forest having several hairbreadth escapes. On account of disability, arising from his old wound, the Colonel was sent to Point of Rocks Hospital, near Petersburg, Va., and thence to the Annapolis (Md.) Hospital, where he remained until he was mustered out of service on the 1st of September, 1864, the lieutenant-colonel commanding the regiment until the close of the war.

Since the rebellion, Colonel De Forest has lived a quiet life on his farm in Duanesburgh, broken only by service at times in the census bureau, taking a deep, but not active, interest in politics, and doing his share in developing the resources of his town. He has been three times married, and has seven children living. He has always been interested in educational questions and has done much to advance the standard of the schools of Duanesburgh and elsewhere. At one time, in association with the late Hon. Horace Greeley and others, he was a trustee of the People's College, at Ovid, N. Y.

CIVIL HISTORY.

Duanesburgh, named in honor of James Duane, its principal proprietor, was erected as a township by patent, March 13, 1765. It was first joined with Schoharie under the title of the United District of Duanesburgh and Schoharie. It was made a separate district March 24, 1772, and recognized as a town March 22, 1788.

It is to be regretted that the loss of the town records by fire, about 1830, prevents the introduction of many interesting extracts from the early books. The first record of an annual town meeting extant is that of the year 1832; but we are enabled to present the names of all the Supervisors since the organization of the Board of Supervisors of the county of Schenectady.

SUPERVISORS FROM 1809 [to 1831.—1809, William North; 1810, John Young; 1811, John

Brown; 1812, John Brown; 1813, James Cantley; 1814, James Cantley; 1815, James Cantley; 1816, James Cantley; 1817, James Cantley; 1818, James Cantley; 1819, Lewis Eaton; 1820, James Cantley; 1821, James Cantley; 1822, James Cantley; 1823, Joseph Gaige; 1824, William A. S. North; 1825, William A. S. North; 1826, Benjamin S. Knight; 1827, Benjamin S. Knight; 1828, Ebenezer Kniblae; 1829, Joseph Gaige; 1830, Joseph Gaige; 1831, Joseph Gaige.

CIVIL LIST.

Following is a civil list for the town of Duanesburgh from 1832 to 1885 inclusive:

1832.—Joseph Gaige, Supervisor; Thomas Knight, Town Clerk; John Herrick, Jonathan Jones, James Gale, Assessors; Job Cleveland, John Herrick, Justices of the Peace; John Victory, Henry Slawson, Abram Durfee, Commissioners of Highways; John Wood, Abram Durfee, Overseers of the Poor; John B. Duane, David Wing, James Stewart, Commissioners of Common Schools; Jacob Patterson, Thomas Knight, Joseph Braman, Inspectors of Common Schools; Matthew Putnam, Collector; William B. Abell, Matthew Putnam, Joel J. Smith, Constables.

1833.—David Wing, Supervisor; Job Cleveland, Justice of the Peace; Thomas Knight, Town Clerk; Jonathan Jones, Ebenezer Frisbee, Abram Durfee, Assessors; John Victory, Henry Slawson, Abram Durfee, Commissioners of Highways; John Wood, Abram Durfee, Overseers of the Poor; Matthew Putnam, Collector; Joseph Braman, Benjamin F. Wood, Jacob Patterson, Commissioners of Common Schools; Ichabod W. Briggs, Thomas Knight, Nathaniel J. Herrick, Inspectors of Schools; Matthew Putnam, William B. Abell, Joseph Rider, Constables.

1834.—Thomas Knight, Supervisor; John Titus, Justice of the Peace; Benjamin F. Wood, Town Clerk; Ebenezer Foster, Jonathan Jones, Perry T. Briggs, Assessors; Henry Wiltse, Collector; John Victory, Henry Slawson, Abram Durfee, Commissioners of Highways; John Wood, Roderick Frisbee, Overseers of the Poor; Joseph Braman, John Wood, Jacob Patterson, Commissioners of Common Schools; John Banks, M. R. Case, Ichabod W. Briggs, Inspectors of Common Schools; Nathaniel J. Herrick, Matthew Putnam, Oliver D. Briggs, Constables.

1835.—Thomas Knight, Supervisor; John F. Vedder, Justice of the Peace; Benjamin F. Wood, Town Clerk; Ebenezer Foster, Jonathan Jones, Kirby Wilber, Assessors; Hebron W. Briggs, Collector; Lemuel Ladd, James Herrick, Abram Durfee, Commissioners of Highways; John Wood, Abram Durfee, Overseers of the Poor; Joseph Braman, John Wood, Jacob Patterson, Commissioners of Common Schools; N. J. Errick, Benjamin F. Wood, I. W. Briggs, Commissioners of Common Schools; I. W. Briggs, R. H. Wood, M. R. Case, Constables.

1836.—Thomas Knight, Supervisor; Benjamin F. Wood, Town Clerk; Nathaniel J. Herrick, Ira Avery, John A. Van Pelt, Justices of the Peace; Thomas W. Patterson, James Herrick, Abram Durfee, Commissioners of Highways; John Wood, Abram Durfee, Overseers of the Poor; John Smith, Collector; John Wood, Joseph Braman, Jacob Patterson, Commissioners of Common Schools; Benjamin F. Wood, R. P. U. Wilber, Ichabod W. Briggs, Inspectors of Common Schools; Oliver P. Dorn, Reuben H. Wood, Stephen Griffith, Jr., Hebron W. Briggs, Constables.

1837.—Marvin Strong, Supervisor; John A. Van Pelt, Justice of the Peace; Benjamin F. Wood, Town Clerk; Roderick Frisbee, James Herrick, James Gale, Assessors; Peter Soule, Collector; John Wood, Ira Avery, Overseers of the Poor; John Victory, James Herrick, Perry T. Briggs, Commissioners of Highways; Silas H. Marsh, Jacob Patterson, Thomas Knight, Commissioners of Common Schools; B. F. Wood, J. B. Duane, Peter Carpenter, Inspectors of Common Schools; James I. Harris, Jonathan R. Tiffany, John Murray, Constables.

1838.—Marvin Strong, Supervisor; Benjamin F. Wood, Town Clerk; Matthew H. Rector, Justice of the Peace;

Roderick Frisbee, Perry T. Briggs, James Herrick, Assessors; Peter Soule, Collector; John Wood, William A. S. North, Overseers of the Poor; Kirby Wilber, James Herrick, Jacob A. Radley, Commissioners of Highways; Joseph Braman, Jacob Patterson, Thomas Knight, Commissioners of Common Schools; John B. Duane, Benjamin F. Wood, Abram Conklin, Inspectors of Schools; John Murray, Jonathan R. Tiffany, Bradford Bailey, Constables.

1839.—Marvin Strong, Supervisor; Benjamin F. Wood, Town Clerk; James Herrick, Ira Avery, Justices of the Peace; Ebenezer Frisbee, James Herrick, Perry T. Briggs, Assessors; Jonathan R. Tiffany, Collector; John Wood, Abram Durfee, Overseers of the Poor; John Shute, William Conklin, Abram Durfee, Commissioners of Highways; Thomas Knight, Job Cleveland, Wm. A. S. North, Commissioners of Common Schools; Nathaniel Mead, Abram Conklin, Jonathan R. Tiffany, Inspectors of Common Schools; Jonathan R. Tiffany, Peter Simmons, Constables.

1840.—Benjamin F. Wood, Supervisor; Abraham Conklin, Town Clerk; Bradford Bailey, Ira Avery, Justices of the Peace; John Herrick, Kirby Wilber, Henry Dutcher, Assessors; James Herrick, Perry T. Briggs, William Conklin, Commissioners of Highways; John Wood, Abram Durfee, Overseers of the Poor; William A. S. North, Thomas Knight, Jacob Patterson, Commissioners of Common Schools; John H. Salisbury, Frederick Delamater, Nathaniel Mead, Inspectors of Common Schools; James Tullock, Collector; Peter Simmons, Thomas Tullock, J. R. Tiffany, Constables.

1841.—Benjamin F. Wood, Supervisor; Marvin Strong, Justice of the Peace; Abraham Conklin, Town Clerk; Perry T. Briggs, George E. Cady, Roderick Frisbee, Assessors; John Smith, Collector; John Wood, Abraham Durfee, Overseers of the Poor; Abram Durfee, John Tullock, William Conklin, Commissioners of Highways; Job Cleveland, Thomas Knight, Joseph Braman, Commissioners of Common Schools; Nathaniel Mead, Frederick Delamater, Thomas N. Beebe, Inspectors of Common Schools; Peter Simmons, V. Tompkins, J. N. Tiffany, Constables.

1842.—Benjamin F. Wood, Supervisor; Job Cleveland, Justice of the Peace; Abraham Conklin, Town Clerk; Perry T. Briggs, Matthew H. Rector, Roderick Frisbee, Assessors; Paris Phillips, Collector; John Wood, Abraham Durfee, Overseers of the Poor; George Conklin, Joseph Eggleston, Benjamin Briggs, Commissioners of Highways; Job Cleveland, Thomas Knight, Joseph Braman, Commissioners of Common Schools; Frederick Delamater, Thomas N. Beebe, Inspectors of Common Schools; Stephen Hyser, George Conklin, V. Tompkins, Constables.

1843.—Perry T. Briggs, Supervisor; Abraham Conklin, Town Clerk; Ira Avery, Justice of the Peace; Truman Case, George E. Cady, Elisha Chapman, Jr., Assessors; Adam Cole, Collector; John Wood, George Lockwood, Overseers of the Poor; Benjamin James, Alonzo Ladd, Abraham Durfee, Commissioners of Highways; Job Cleveland, Thomas Knight, Joseph Braman, Commissioners of Common Schools; Benjamin F. Wood, Thomas N. Beebe, Inspectors of Common Schools; Joseph Braman, Bradford Bailey, James Frost, Truman Case, Matthew H. Rector, Caleb H. Carpenter, Inspectors of Election; George Conklin, V. Tompkins, Benjamin Briggs, J. R. Tiffany, Constables.

1844.—Thomas Knight, Supervisor; Abraham Conklin, Town Clerk; George Conklin, Collector; Bradford Bailey, Justice of the Peace; Benjamin F. Wood, Town Superintendent of Schools; John I. Lawyer, Benjamin Jones, Alonzo Ladd, Commissioners of Highways; John Wood, George Lockwood, Overseers of the Poor; Joseph Braman, Nathaniel J. Herrick, James Frost, John I. Lawyer, Matthew H. Rector, David E. Wing, Inspectors of Election; George Conklin, John Chilson, John S. Ladd, Constables.

1845.—Thomas Knight, Supervisor; John D. Wood, Town Clerk; Marvin Strong, John Robison, Justices of the Peace; Jacob Patterson, Town Superintendent of Schools; Jacob White, Joseph Eggleston, James Lendrum, Assessors; Stephen V. Gaige, Collector; Isaac B. Gaige, James Tullock 2d, Johannes Houghtaling, Commissioners of Highways; John Wood, Israel R. Green, Overseers of the Poor; Bradford Bailey, Israel R. Green, Alonzo Ladd, Daniel T. Hoag, Matthew H. Rector, John S. Van Aernam, Inspectors of

Election; Miles Lester, George Conklin, Reuben T. McIntosh, Constables.

1846.—Thomas Knight, Supervisor; John D. Wood, Town Clerk; Marvin Strong, John Robison, Justices of the Peace; Jacob Patterson, Town Superintendent of Schools; Jacob White, Joseph Eggleston, James Lendrum, Assessors; Stephen V. Gaige, Collector; Isaac B. Gaige, James Tullock 2d, Johannes Houghtaling, Commissioners of Highways; John Wood, Israel R. Green, Overseers of the Poor; Bradford Bailey, Israel R. Green, Alonzo Ladd, Daniel T. Hoag, Matthew H. Rector, John S. Van Aernam, Inspectors of Election; Miles Lester, George Conklin, Reuben T. McIntosh, Constables.

1847.—Abraham Conklin, Supervisor; Matthew H. Rector, Benjamin F. Wood, Justices of the Peace; William E. Knight, Town Clerk; Jacob Patterson, Town Superintendent of Schools; Joseph Bennett, Assessor; Benjamin Jones, Alonzo Ladd, Simon S. Vedder, Commissioners of Highways; Job J. Williams, Collector; John Wood, Joseph Braman, Overseers of the Poor; Charles Mosher, John Smith, Constables; James Kearns, William Ladd, John Smith, Seneca Enders, Paul White, Peter H. Hallenbeck, Inspectors of Election.

1848.—Abraham Conklin, Supervisor; William E. Knight, Town Clerk; Bradford Bailey, Justice of the Peace; William H. Morey, David Griffith, Assessors; James Tullock, Jr., Commissioner of Highways; Charles Frisbee, Town Superintendent of Schools; Joseph Braman, Jacob White, Overseers of the Poor; Nathan J. Cornell, Collector; Charles T. Mosher, Nathan J. Cornell, Constables; Nathaniel J. Herrick, James Lester, Peter Overbaugh, Perry T. Briggs, Seneca Enders, Benjamin Sheldon, Inspectors of Election.

1849.—Abraham Conklin, Supervisor; Job Cleveland, Benjamin F. Wood, Justices of the Peace; William E. Knight, Town Clerk; William H. Morey, Assessor; Alonzo Ladd, Commissioner of Highways; John Wood, Ira Bennett, Overseers of the Poor; John G. Smith, Collector; Charles T. Mosher, Delos Sloan, John Bailey, Constables; Charles L. Tullock, William Ladd, Charles A. Frisbee, Lester Mott, Joseph D. Head, Hiram P. Allen, Inspectors of Election.

1850.—Alexander Liddell, Jr., Supervisor; Alonzo Macomber, Justice of the Peace; Alonzo Ladd, Town Clerk; John G. Smith, Collector; William Conklin, Assessor; James R. Crawford, Town Superintendent of Schools; Nathaniel C. Jenkins, John Ladd, Overseers of the Poor; Simon S. Vedder, Commissioner of Highways; James Kearns, William Ladd, Charles Tullock, Miles Lester, Addison Wilber, William Hunt, Inspectors of Election; Griffin Whipple, Nathan J. Cornell, Charles T. Mosher, Delos Sloan, Miles Lester, Constables.

1851.—Alexander Liddell, Jr., Supervisor; Griffin Whipple, Town Clerk; John W. Head, Justice of the Peace; David Griffith, Assessor; James Tullock, Jr., Commissioner of Highways; Nathaniel C. Jenkins, John Ladd Jr., Overseers of the Poor; Asa Hurd, Collector; William Ladd, Thomas Black, Charles S. Tullock, Matthew H. Rector, William Whipple, Lester Mott, Inspectors of Election; Stephen H. Abell, Benjamin Wilber, Griffin Whipple, Delos Sloan, Constables.

1852.—Alonzo Ladd, Supervisor; Griffin Whipple, Town Clerk; Nathaniel J. Herrick, Justice of the Peace; Hugh H. McMillan, Assessor; William B. Dorn, Commissioner of Highways; Alanson Lester, Superintendent of Schools; Asa Hurd, Collector; N. C. Jenkins, John Ladd, Overseers of the Poor; James Lendrum, Charles S. Tullock, James Murray, Simon S. Kidder, William E. Knight, Samuel Wingate, Inspectors of Election; David Hughes, John G. Smith, Griffin Whipple, George P. Cramer, Constables.

1853.—Alonzo Ladd, Supervisor; Orlando Root, Town Clerk; Benjamin F. Wood, Justice of the Peace; William Conklin, Assessor; Perry T. Briggs, Commissioner of Highways; Nathaniel C. Jenkins, John Ladd, Overseers of the Poor; Asa Hurd, Collector; Benjamin Van Deusen, Charles S. Tullock, Charles Cady, William Young, David N. Mericle, George Wright, William M. Gaige, Simon S. Vedder, Edwin G. Wilber, Inspectors of Election; Isaac Ladd, David Hughes, Erwin C. N. Miller, Benjamin Wilber, Constables.

1854.—James Donnan, Supervisor; Bruce Jarvis, Town Clerk; Alonzo Macomber, Justice of the Peace; Silas Tripp, Assessor; Samuel Wingate, Commissioner of Highways; Alanson Lester, Town Superintendent of Schools; Israel R. Green, John D. Wood, Overseers of the Poor; Asa Hurd, Collector; Charles S. Tullock, James Lendrum, Elisha Chapman, Adam Cole, James Love, Stephen Badgley, Peter Overbaugh, Thomas Black, David Griffith, Inspectors of Election; Jacob M. Swart, David Hughes, Orlando Root, Eli Mickle, Constables.

1855.—Alexander Liddell, Jr., Supervisor; J. H. Case, Town Clerk; William B. Dorn, John W. Head, Justices of the Peace; Henry Wilber, Collector; Hugh H. McMillan, Assessor; John D. Wood, John Ladd, Overseers of the Poor; Henry Mickle, Commissioner of Highways; Charles L. Tullock, George W. Lester, William Ladd, H. P. Allen, M. R. Victory, David Griffith, James Lendrum, John McDougal, William Young, Inspectors of Election; Jacob M. Swart, Eli Mickle, William Marsh, James I. Harris, Constables.

1856.—Angus McIntosh, Supervisor; Orlando Root, Town Clerk; William B. Dorn, Justice of the Peace; Caleb Frisbee, Assessor; N. C. Jenkins, Commissioner of Highways; John D. Wood, David Griffith, Overseers of the Poor; Asa Hurd, Collector; Alanson Lester, Superintendent of Common Schools; M. R. Victory, William Young, H. P. Allen, C. S. Tullock, Moses C. Avery, John S. Van Aernam, William Wells, Ira Marsh, J. Lester Mott, Inspectors of Election; Eli Mickle, James Volk, Jesse P. Chamberlain, George Westfall, Constables.

1857.—Angus McIntosh, Supervisor; James H. Case, Town Clerk; Benjamin F. Wood, Justice of the Peace; David Griffith, M. R. Victory, Assessors; John D. Wood, Ebenezer Wright, Overseers of the Poor; Joseph M. Lason, Collector; Samuel Wingate, Commissioner of Highways; T. R. Liddle, Lester Mott, Moses C. Avery, M. R. Victory, Charles L. Tullock, Asa Hurd, William Ladd, Ebenezer Wright, Hiram P. Allen, Inspectors of Election; Benjamin Wilber, Eli Mickle, Constables.

1858.—Benjamin T. Wood, Supervisor; Alonzo Macomber, Justice of the Peace; George Allen, Town Clerk; Henry Wright, Asa Hurd, Assessors; William Wells, Commissioner of Highways; Benjamin Wilber, Collector; Ebenezer Wright, Truman Case, Overseers of the Poor; M. R. Victory, M. R. Brumogh, C. L. Tullock, John S. Markle, William Ladd, Elisha Chapman, H. P. Allen, Hugh H. McMillan, Lewis Hunt, Inspectors of Election; Benjamin Wilber, David M. Limmer, James Volk, Smith Conner, Constables.

1859.—William Young, Supervisor; George Allen, Town Clerk; John W. Head, Justice of the Peace; Asa Hurd, Assessor; Nathaniel C. Jenkins, Commissioner of Highways; Richard Walpole, Ebenezer Wright, Overseers of the Poor; Charles Slawson, Collector; Peter A. Brumogh, M. R. Victory, Charles L. Tullock, John S. Markle, William Ladd, George Priest, Hiram P. Allen, Hugh H. McMillan, Lester Mott, Inspectors of Election; Henry Tripp, Adam V. Snyder, Benjamin Wilber, John M. Bradt, Isaiah R. Connor, Constables.

1860.—Samuel Wingate, Supervisor; Oliver B. Wood, Town Clerk; Richard Walpole, Justice of the Peace; John McClure, Assessor; Henry G. Herrick, Commissioner of Highways; Abraham Devenberg, Ebenezer Wright, Overseers of the Poor; Benjamin Wiltse, Collector; M. R. Victory, Peter A. Brumogh, James W. Waddell, William Ladd, John S. Markle, William R. McLean, Hiram P. Allen, Ralph W. McDougall, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; Benjamin Wilber, Henry Tripp, Constables.

1861.—Samuel Wingate, Supervisor; John L. Turnbull, Town Clerk; John S. Van Aernam, Justice of the Peace; Henry Wright, Assessor; James Harvey, Commissioner of Highways; Ebenezer Wright, Overseer of the Poor; Stephen V. Gaige, Collector; M. R. Victory, Peter A. Brumogh, William B. Dorn, William Ladd, John S. Markle, William R. McLean, Hiram P. Allen, Ralph W. McDougall, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; James A. Love, Benjamin Wilber, Heath Markle, Hiram Munger, Constables.

1862.—Samuel Wingate, Supervisor; John L. Turnbull, Town Clerk; Alonzo Macomber, Justice of the Peace; Asa Hurd, Assessor; David Griffith, Commissioner of Highways; Ebenezer Wright, John Berckley, Overseers of the Poor; David V. Wilber, Collector; M. R. Victory, Peter A. Brumogh, Bradford Bailey, William Ladd, Stephen Badgley, William R. McLean, Hiram P. Allen, Ralph W. McDougall, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; James A. Love, Benjamin Wilber, Constables.

1863.—Samuel Wingate, Supervisor; John L. Turnbull, Town Clerk; John Liddle, Justice of the Peace; John McClure, Assessor; Hugh H. McMillan, Commissioner of Highways; Ebenezer Wright, John Berckley, Overseers of the Poor; John M. Bradt, Collector; M. R. Victory, Peter A. Brumogh, William B. Dorn, William Ladd, John S. Markle, Elisha Chapman, Hiram P. Allen, Ralph W. McDougall, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; James A. Love, Benjamin Wilber, Constables.

1864.—Samuel Wingate, Supervisor; John L. Turnbull, Town Clerk; Richard Walpole, Justice of the Peace; Henry Wright, Assessor; James Harvey, Commissioner of Highways; Ebenezer Wright, Cornwell W. Bronk, Overseers of the Poor; M. R. Victory, Peter A. Brumogh, Nicholas Smith, Frederick W. Shute, Mott T. Sheldon, Thomas R. McClure, Hiram P. Allen, R. W. McDougall, Philip J. Fredericks, Inspectors of Election; Edward Reynex, Benjamin Wilber, William Marsh, Cornelius L. Smith, John M. Bradt, Constables.

1865.—William Malloch, Supervisor; George Allen, Town Clerk; John S. Van Aernam, Justice of the Peace; John Turnbull, Assessor; Benjamin F. Ruff, Collector; David Griffith, Commissioner of Highways; C. W. Bronk, Ebenezer Wright, Overseers of the Poor; M. R. Victory, P. A. Brumogh, Charles L. Tullock, F. W. Shute, Mott T. Sheldon, Thomas R. McClure, Jacob Tingue, Hiram P. Allen, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; John Dean, Benjamin Wilber, Edward P. Reynex, Constables.

1866.—William Malloch, Supervisor; George Allen, Town Clerk; Addison Wilber, Justice of the Peace; David Griffith, Assessor; Martin Bradt, Collector; Ebenezer Wright, Cornell W. Bronk, Overseers of the Poor; M. R. Victory, James A. Love, Charles L. Tullock, Frederick W. Shute, Jacob J. Gardner, Thomas R. McClure, Hiram P. Allen, Ralph W. McDougall, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; Benjamin Wilber, Silas Gallup, James A. Love, Edward P. Reynex, Constables.

1867.—William Malloch, Supervisor; George Allen, Town Clerk; Alonzo Ladd, Justice of the Peace; Asa Hurd, Assessor; Martin Bradt, Collector; John D. Stillwell, Commissioner of Highways; Ebenezer Wright, Cornell W. Bronk, Overseers of the Poor; M. R. Victory, James A. Love, William Conklin, William Ladd, Mott T. Sheldon, John W. Head, Hiram P. Allen, Ralph W. McDougall, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; Jacob J. Gardner, James A. Tallock, Edward P. Reynex, Benjamin Wilber, Luke Donohoe, Constables.

1868.—William Malloch, Supervisor; George Allen, Town Clerk; Richard Walpole, Justice of the Peace; John Turnbull, Assessor; Richard Hunter, Commissioner of Highways; Daniel W. Bronk, Collector; Jeremiah M. Deys, William Wells, Overseers of the Poor; M. R. Victory, Peter A. Brumogh, William B. Dorn, Frederick W. Shute, Adam Hunter, John W. Head, Hiram P. Allen, Ralph W. McDougall, Duncan R. Coulter, Inspectors of Election; Benjamin Wilber, Benjamin Rector, Edward P. Reynex, Delas B. Denise, Constables.

1869.—William Malloch, Supervisor; George Allen, Town Clerk; John S. Van Aernam, Justice of the Peace; David Griffith, Assessor; F. W. Shute, Commissioner of Highways; Elias Warner, Collector; Nathaniel C. Jenkins, Cornell W. Bronk, Overseers of the Poor; George Lasher, Peter A. Brumogh, William P. Dorn, John Blanchard, Adam Hunter, Jr., John W. Head, Ralph W. McDougall, Hiram P. Allen, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; Charles Lenwood, Benjamin Wilber, Jacob J. Gardner, Constables.

1870.—William Malloch, Supervisor; George Allen, Town Clerk; Alonzo Macomber, Justice of the Peace; Stephen H. Abell, Assessor; Abram Devenberg, Commissioner of Highways; James H. Van Patten, Collector; John O.

Becker, Nathaniel C. Jenkins, Overseers of the Poor; George Lasher, Henry C. McMaster, James Waddell, John C. Blanchard, Henry G. Herrick, Clark W. Head, Hiram P. Allen, Ralph W. McDougall, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; Edward P. Reynex, John L. Barton, Benjamin Wilber, Alonzo Van Patten, Delas B. Denise, Constables.

1871.—William Malloch, Supervisor; George Allen, Town Clerk; John W. Head, Justice of the Peace; John Turnbull, Assessor; Julius N. Kimball, Collector; Nathaniel C. Jenkins, John O. Becker, Overseers of the Poor; Marcus Delamater, Henry P. McMaster, William B. Dorn, Henry G. Herrick, William R. Baird, Ira E. Avery, Hiram P. Allen, Ralph W. McDougall, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; John L. Barton, Charles A. Lenwood, James Van Patten, George Stevens, Constables.

1872.—Emmett O'Neill, Supervisor; Hicks W. Sheldon, Town Clerk; Richard Walpole, Justice of the Peace; David Griffith, Assessor; Henry P. McMaster, Collector; Jesse B. Carpenter, Commissioner of Highways; William Weaver, John O. Becker, Overseers of the Poor; Zachariah Smith, M. R. Victory, Nicholas Smith, Mott T. Sheldon, Richard Hunter, Jr., Jirah Rockwell, Hiram P. Allen, Ralph W. McDougall, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; John L. Barton, Charles W. Lenwood, James Van Patten, Eli Mickel, Constables.

1873.—Emmett O'Neill, Supervisor; Hicks W. Sheldon, Town Clerk; John S. Van Aernam, Justice of the Peace; Elisha B. Morse, Assessor; Arthur D. Mead, Collector; James W. Waddell, Commissioner of Highways; William Weaver, John O. Becker, Overseers of the Poor; Cornell W. Bronk, John Buckley, Nicholas Smith, Frederick W. Shute, Andrew Hunter, Jirah Rockwell, William Chadwick, Ralph W. McDougall, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; John L. Barton, James A. Tripp, Jacob Gardiner, George Mickel, Constables.

1874.—Emmett O'Neill, Supervisor; John L. Turnbull, Town Clerk; Alonzo Macomber, George Lasher, Justices of the Peace; Cornell W. Bronk, Assessor; Thomas Hemstreet, Collector; Spencer Christman, Commissioner of Highways; William Weaver, Abram P. Bronk, Overseers of the Poor; John H. Markle, John Buckley, George H. Love, Joseph C. Wright, John Blanchard, Frank Chapman, Ralph W. McDougall, Hiram P. Allen, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; James A. Tripp, John L. Barton, John C. Gilbert, Eli Mickel, Constables.

1875.—Arthur D. Mead, Supervisor; Duncan R. Coulter, Town Clerk; John W. Head, Justice of the Peace; David Griffith, Assessor; Peter Smith, Collector; David Durfee, Commissioner of Highways; Abram Wemple, John Conklin, Overseers of the Poor; Austin Delamater, Nicholas Smith, J. H. Love, Ralph W. McDougall, Hiram P. Allen, Lewis W. Hunt, William S. Knight, W. G. Sears, Henry G. Herrick, Inspectors of Election; Eli Mickel, John S. Barton, William H. Becker, Constables.

1876.—George Lasher, Supervisor; W. S. Knight, Town Clerk; W. H. Barkhuff, Justice of the Peace; Andrew Hunter, Assessor; James W. Waddell, Commissioner of Highways; John L. Bronk, Nathaniel C. Jenkins, Overseers of the Poor; Austin Delamater, John H. Marcle, George Dennison, Charles B. Carpenter, Charles Liddle, Oscar Durfee, John A. McClure, William Chadwick, Lewis W. Hunt, Inspectors of Election; William Landers, Collector; John M. Bradt, Eli Mickel, George W. Patterson, J. Chapman, Jirah Rockwell, Constables; Robert N. Durfee, Game Constable.

1877.—Arthur D. Mead, Supervisor; William S. Knight, Town Clerk; Chalmers Devenberg, Ralph W. McDougall, Justices of the Peace; Nicholas Smith, Assessor; John W. Feidler, Commissioner of Highways; Nicholas S. Pangburn, Collector; Nathaniel C. Jenkins, John Bronk, Overseers of the Poor; George Malloch, George H. Love, Frederick Delamater, William H. Avory, George T. McFarland, R. J. Liddle, William Chadwick, A. S. Liddle, W. L. Schermerhorn, Inspectors of Election; John M. Bradt, Hiram Hlton, Jacob Gardiner, Eli Mickel, Jacob Waggoner, Constables; William McMillan, Game Constable; John O. Becker, Frederick Shute, A. H. Delavan, Auditors.

1878.—George Lasher, Supervisor; George Mickel, Town Clerk; John McClure, Assessor; George Love, Col-

lector; Zerah Jenkins, John L. Bronk, Overseers of the Poor; David Walpole, John F. Marckley; John Smith, Orlando Jones, Zachariah Smith, R. J. Liddle, Abraham Osterhout, Elwood Moore, William L. Schermerhorn, Inspectors of Election; H. P. McMaster, Jacob W. Gardiner, Jacob Waggoner, George Fellows, Eli Mickel, Constables; William McMillan, Game Constable.

1879.—John W. Head, Supervisor; George Mickel, Town Clerk; James Staly, Assessor; George H. Love, Commissioner of Highways; J. W. Head, T. R. Herrick, Justices of the Peace; Martin J. Wilber, Collector; G. D. Durfee, John L. Bronk, Overseers of the Poor; Daniel S. Pulver, Frederick Delamater, William Bronk, N. S. Pangburn, R. L. Hunter, J. J. Gardiner, William L. Schermerhorn, Andrew Harbeck, Elwood Moore, Inspectors of Election; Eli Mickel, J. M. Bradt, Henry McMaster, Jonathan Clayton, Jacob Waggoner, Constables; M. H. Sheldon, Game Constable.

1880.—George Lasher, Supervisor; William L. Schermerhorn, Town Clerk; Cornell W. Bronk, Assessor; John W. Feidler, Commissioner of Highways; David W. Walpole, Justice of the Peace; Robert J. Liddle, Collector; Gilbert D. Durfee, John L. Bronk, Overseers of the Poor; James Quick, Robert Cullings, David N. Peek, F. W. Shute, Orlando Jones, Robert J. Liddle, Andrew Harbeck, Elwood Moore, J. M. S. Wilber, Inspectors of Election; Henry P. McMaster, Jacob W. Gardner, Jonathan Clayton, John L. Barton, John M. Brodt, Constables; William McMillan, Game Constable.

1881.—James W. Waddell, Supervisor; John L. Turnbull, Town Clerk; A. H. Delevan, Assessor; Simon Dare, Commissioner of Highways; Lewis A. Wilber, Justice of the Peace; Robert J. Liddle, Collector; Eli Hart, John L. Bronk, Overseers of the Poor; George Astrander, Henry I. Smith, Edward Day, J. J. Gardner, John H. Shute, Horace Avery, Abram S. Liddle, William Chadwick, Hiram Hilton, Inspectors of Election; Henry McMaster, J. J. Gardner, Howard Sperbeck, Abram Ostrander, Constables; George W. Mickel, Game Constable.

1882.—James W. Waddell, Supervisor; John L. Turnbull, Town Clerk; Jacob D. Patterson, Assessor; George H. Love, Commissioner of Highways; John M. Delamater, Justice of the Peace; David N. Peek, Collector; John Levy, Eli Hart, Overseers of the Poor; Juan Pangburn, John Buckley, Edward Deay, John H. Shute, Jay Abbey, William Tiffany, Andrew Harbeck, William T. Waddell, J. M. Swart Wilber, Inspectors of Election; John L. Barton, Obediah Stillwell, Howard Sperbeck, Newton J. Gardner, Constables; William S. Knight, Game Constable.

1883.—James W. Waddell, Supervisor; John L. Turnbull, Town Clerk; Nicholas Smith, Assessor; William Chadwick, Commissioner of Highways; Frederick W. Shute, Justice of the Peace; Stephen Pratt White, Collector; John Levy, Charles B. Carpenter, Overseers of the Poor; John Green, Marshall Wilkinson, John W. Smith, John H. Shute, Jay Abbey, Edward T. Liddle, John A. McClure, Edward Moore, Darwin E. Mott, Inspectors of Election; John L. Barton, Obediah Stillwell, Howard Sperbeck, Jacob J. Gardner, Constables; Austin Delamater, Game Constable.

1884.—John A. McClure, Supervisor; John L. Turnbull, Town Clerk; Spencer Churtman, Assessor; William Tiffany, Commissioner of Highways; David W. Walpole, Justice of the Peace; Robert J. Liddle, Collector; Charles B. Carpenter, John Levy, Overseers of the Poor; John Turnbull, James Wells, Daniel Pulver, John H. Shute, Jay Abbey, Horace Avery, Elwood Moore, William T. Waddell, J. M. Swart Wilber, Inspectors of Election; John L. Barton, James Durfee, Obediah Stillwell, Jacob J. Gardner, William Levy, Jr., Constables; William McMillan, Game Constable.

1885.—John A. McClure, Supervisor; John L. Turnbull, Town Clerk; Jacob D. Patterson, Assessor; William D. McMillan, Commissioner of Highways; T. Romyne Herrick, Justice of the Peace; Robert J. Liddle, Collector; Charles B. Carpenter, John Levy, Overseers of the Poor; Jethro Rockwell, Theodore Vandescar, David N. Peek, Jay Abbey, John H. Shute, William Avery, William T. Waddell, Elwood Moore, J. M. Swart Wilber, Inspectors of Election;

James Durfee, Augustus Taber, Edward Montanye, John Stebbins, Constables; William McMillan, Game Constable.

EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS.

The whole number of schools in this town is twenty-two. There are, besides, three joint districts—that is, districts partly in Duaneburgh and partly beyond the town limits, with school-houses beyond the lines. Two of the joint districts extend into Montgomery County, and one into Schoharie County. The amount of State money appropriated to the schools of Duaneburgh during the last fiscal year was \$2,163.70. The amount raised by district tax was \$3,359.85. The total was \$5,523.55. The number of scholars attending school in 1884 was 970.

CHURCH HISTORY.

Judge Duane, on his retirement, sought to establish in Duaneburgh a home for his declining years. One of his first thoughts was for a church. Centre Lot, or Square, having failed in its purpose of becoming the center of Duaneburgh village, he devoted it to the uses of this church, and in its center he built the present house of worship, about 1792 and 1793. Before the date of its consecration it was conveyed to the corporation. At a meeting of the rector and inhabitants of the town of Duaneburgh, in communion of the Episcopal Church of said town, on Tuesday, September 22, 1793, the following instrument respecting the consecration, entitled "an act of the founder for consecrating Christ's Church at Duaneburgh," was laid before the vestry.

"I, James Duane, proprietor of the town of Duaneburgh, in the County of Albany, do hereby make known and declare that the edifice lately erected at the place called Centre Square of the said town, and the ground on which the said edifice is situated, are intended and hereby appropriated for the public worship of Almighty God, according to the rites and ceremonies of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New York, for which use they shall always remain and continue. And that I have requested, and do hereby pray the Right Reverend the Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the said State of New York to consecrate and set apart the said edifice, with the ground on which it is erected, by the name of Christ's Church in Duaneburgh, according to the rights and ceremonies of the said Protestant Episcopal Church. In Witness, etc."

(Signed)

JAMES DUANE.

[Seal.]

The duplicate of this instrument was publicly delivered by Mr. Duane into the hands of the Right Reverend Samuel Provost at the chancel of the church, and there read and published by the Rev. Mr. Ellison, rector of St. Peter's Church, Albany, immediately before the consecration, to a large audience, on Sunday, August 25, 1793. There was also present, to assist at the service, the Rev. Leonard Cutting, minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, U. S.

The parish evidently had a corporate existence for some years previous to 1795, and was in charge of the Rev. Mr. Belden. It was admitted to the Convention of the Diocese of New York in 1789. Under the State law then recently passed, action was taken to comply with the new requirements.

"To all people to whom these presents shall come or concern: The Rev. David Belden, minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Town of Duaneburgh and County of Albany, and William North, James C. Duane, Edward Cumpston and Joel Thompson of the said town, members of the said church, do hereby certify and make known, that on the twenty-third day of August, 1795, immediately after divine service, they were present and assisted at a meeting of the male adult persons of the congregation, or church in communion, of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New York, at Christ's Church in the said Town of Duaneburgh, for the purpose of incorporating themselves under the act of the Legislature of this State, entitled 'An Act for the Relief of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New York,' passed the 17th day of March, 1795. That the said minister presided at the said meeting. That William North and James C. Duane, of the said town, were

then and there respectively and unanimously elected and chosen churchwardens of the said congregation or church; and George Wasson, Joel Thompson, Edward Cumpston, John Thornton, Joseph Thompson, Nicholas Righter and William Skeels, also of the said town, and John Dorn, of Corrysbush, were in like manner respectively and unanimously elected and chosen vestrymen of the said congregation or church; and that it was further then and there unanimously agreed and determined that on Tuesday in Easter week the said offices of churchwardens and vestrymen of the said congregation or church shall yearly forever hereafter cease, and their successors in office be elected and chosen; and, lastly, it was then and there agreed, determined and declared, that the said congregation or church shall forever hereafter be known and recognized in law by the name, style or title of the Rector and Inhabitants of the Town of Duanesburgh, in communion of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New York. In testimony whereof, the said David Belden, William North, James C. Duane, Edward Cumpston and Joel Thompson have hereunto set their hands and seals this twenty-third day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five.

"Sealed and delivered in presence of us,

JAMES DUANE,	[SEAL]
DAVID BELDEN,	[SEAL]
W. NORTH,	[SEAL]
J. C. DUANE,	[SEAL]
E. CUMPTON,	[SEAL]
JOEL THOMSON,"	[SEAL]

In 1811 a tower and spire was added to the building and a few changes were made in the interior. Since then no changes have been made. The building has been kept in excellent repair, and is the oldest church edifice in the Diocese of Albany which has preserved its primitive architectural design.

Immediately after the consecration of the church, Judge Duane, "desirous to make some permanent provision for the present and future incumbents of the said church," presented a glebe of eighty acres near the church and parsonage. The land thus designated was a part of the Farm No. 116. Subsequently, the heirs of James C. Duane added a number of acres, increasing the glebe to its present size. Judge Duane also contributed materially toward the building of the parsonage house, and, at his instigation, the vestry applied for further aid to Trinity Church, New York. In answer to the request, Trinity Church furnished 300 pounds for this purpose. Before any further action was taken in the matter, Judge Duane died. It having been deemed inadvisable to place the parsonage on the glebe, a plot of ground was leased on the western side of the public square, at an annual rent equal to the value of five "Spanish milled silver dollars." The first parsonage was erected on this lot. The present rectory stands in the glebe, facing the turnpike.

On the 28th of January, 1811, Mary Duane, widow of Hon. James Duane, transferred to Robert Troup, of the City of Albany, and Peter A. Jay, of the City of New York, fifty-three shares of the capital stock of the Merchants' Bank of New York City, its income to be applied toward the uses of this parish. At the death of the original trustees, the fund was placed in the trust of the Protestant Episcopal Society for the promotion of Religion and Learning, the present trustee. By wise and judicious management the fund has gradually accumulated, and now provides an annual income equal to nearly twice the amount of the original principal, not a dollar having been lost through bad investment or otherwise. October 17, 1845, the heirs of Elizabeth North, granddaughter of Hon. James Duane, conveyed to the church all transferable interests, in furtherance of her wish, in the farm known as lot 85, containing 106 acres, occupied by Warren Fuller at a perpetual rent of \$200 a year, to be applied to the needs of this church. She had given the rent to the church since 1834. It was paid regularly until, in 1858, during the anti-rent movement, the tenant refused to pay longer, and removed from the farm all the buildings and such other property as he could conveniently secure. Unable to effect an amicable settlement of the difficulty, the wardens and vestry instituted legal proceedings, which eventually resulted favorably

to the church. The entire property was finally disposed of and the proceeds invested in bond and mortgage. By the will of Catharine L. Duane, a fund of \$500 was left in trust, its annual income to be divided equally between the Sunday-school of Christ's Church and the Duanesburgh Library Association. The entire fund was lost by the recent failure of Emmet O'Neil. Several small funds obtained by sales of timber are invested, the income from which is applied for specific purposes.

There is no record of the first services held in Duanesburgh. It is probable that the rectors of St. Peter's, Albany, from 1710 to 1770, officiated when there was need. The services of Christ's Church were, from the first, provided for by the parish. The building was erected, the organization effected, and all the essentials appertaining to a formed parish were provided at the outset. The measures then taken to maintain the services have, during the subsequent history, demonstrated their wisdom and efficacy, there having been no period during the more than ninety years of its life when any difficulty existed in providing the support of a rector.

The first minister after the incorporation under the then new State Law was Rev. David Belden. Mr. Belden had officiated as a deacon in Duanesburgh for some time before the organization and had presided at the business meetings during the formative period. Upon his advancement to the priesthood he was instituted rector. His official connection with the parish is thought to have ceased in the early part of 1797. On the 30th of July, 1798, Rev. Robert G. Wetmore was called to the rectorship, the wardens agreeing "to become responsible for the payment of one hundred and thirty pounds sterling, * * * and further to find a house for him to live in from the time he begin to preach in Duanesburgh." The right was reserved on the part of the vestry to make such agreement with the church at Schenectady respecting Mr. Wetmore's officiating there as they might deem advisable, provided he should not be obliged to officiate in the church at Schenectady oftener than once in three Sundays.

August 23, 1798, the vestry of Christ's Church agreed "to allow, permit and enjoin on the said Robert G. Wetmore to preach in the Episcopal Church in Schenectady one Sunday in three for and through the said year." November 8, 1800, the vestry having passed a resolution commending most highly "the Rector of Christ's Church, Duanesburgh," for "his zeal, knowledge and integrity," declared that "no deduction of his salary shall be made on account of any disability that may take place during the ensuing year." His health beginning to be impaired shortly after, he remained until April, though he was unable to minister publicly after the 1st of February, 1801. He died soon afterward. During his rectorship in Duanesburgh, he baptized one hundred and performed eight marriages, the smallest fee being eight shillings, the largest a guinea.

Between 1801 and 1817, the names of the following clergy appear on the records as having officiated at various times: N. Lilly, Mr. Burtess, R. Hubbard, Dr. Mansfield, Gross Stebbins, F. Clowes. Of these, Mr. Hubbard is thought to have been rector for some time. Rev. Nathaniel F. Bruce, deacon, was called to be minister June 12, 1817, at a salary of \$400. He was advanced to the priesthood between the latter part of March, 1818, and April 13, 1819, at which date he signs himself as rector. He resigned about the close of 1819. Rev. Charles W. Hamilton was called to officiate as resident minister September 9, 1820. By mutual agreement his connection terminated May 6, 1822. Rev. Richard Bury began his services February 10, 1823, at \$400 per year, which was subsequently increased to \$500. He resigned about the last of December, 1827. Rev. William B. Thomas succeeded him early in 1828 and remained until 1841. Rev. Kendrick Metcalf appears on the records as rector October 26, 1842, remaining until October, 1850. During the interim the vestry invited Rev. Mr. Babcock to officiate at the rate of ten dollars per Sunday. Rev. William O. Jarvis was elected rector August 27, 1851. A suit at law was entered by the Reformed Presbyterian Society against the rector, wardens and vestry, for a portion of the glebe. The issue was in favor of the defendants. The resignation of Mr. Jarvis took effect March 13, 1859.

Rev. Robert T. S. Lowell, D.D., was elected rector April 26, 1859. Dr. Lowell's ministry was successful, and he was associated with many important improvements to the parish

property. At the earnest solicitation of the vestry he consented to withdraw his resignation, presented December 13, 1866, and remained until Easter, 1869. Dr. Lowell is well and widely known as an author and poet of high rank. Rev. George L. Weide was elected rector October 20, 1869.

In the summer of 1877, Trinity Chapel, near Esperance, was erected on land given by Benjamin M. Duane. Services had been held in a school-house near, by Dr. Lowell and Mr. Weide, for several years previous. A society of women raised the building fund. The chapel was formally deeded to Christ's Church, July 29, 1877, and consecrated August 7th following by the Right Rev. William Crosswell Duane, S. T. D., Bishop of the Diocese. Mr. Weide resigned in the spring of 1881. Rev. H. L. Zeller was elected rector October 15, 1881, and remained until August, 1883. Rev. Ernest A. Hartman, the present incumbent, was elected January 24, 1884, and assumed his duties March 16th following.

Below are the names and terms of service of the wardens of Christ's Church from the foundation of the parish to 1885.

William North, 1795-1821; James C. Duane, 1795-1805; George W. Featherstonhaugh, 1805-25; Col. William S. North, 1821-45; John B. Duane, 1825-44; Benjamin M. Duane, 1844-82; Ralph McDougall, 1845-57; Hugh McDougall, 1857-79; Alexander McDougall since 1879; Ralph McDougall since 1882.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKER STREET.

The Society of Friends of Duaneburgh was organized about 1790, when its first meetings were held. Its first meeting for discipline, subordinate to a monthly meeting, was established by a committee sent from Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting in Dutchess County in the fall of 1800. This meeting was then a part of Coeymans Monthly Meeting. In 1806, by a division of Coeymans Meeting, Duaneburgh Monthly Meeting was established and a provision made to hold its meetings one-third of the time at Otego and Burlington, in Otsego County, and two-thirds of the time in Duaneburgh. Some time between 1800 and 1806, a lot of land was deeded to Oliver Briggs, two acres of which was to be held by the Society of Friends. In 1807 this lot was exchanged for part of lot No. 360 in the village of Quaker Street, where the Friends' log meeting-house then stood, by four brothers, named Job, Jeremiah, Robert and Richard Briggs, and was deeded by them to Jedediah Tallman and Zaccheus Mead, who were to hold it in trust for the society "to be used for a burying ground and for the erection of a meeting-house thereon." In 1828 a new deed was given to Nathaniel Wilber, James Shelden, Isaac Gaige, Zaccheus Mead, Benjamin T. Estes, Joseph Moore, Michael Hoag and Isaac Stevens, who were to act as trustees for the society and transfer the property to their successors. A framed addition of ten feet was built to the log meeting-house in 1804, and in 1807 the meeting-house now standing was built. From that time until 1828 the Meeting consisted of about two hundred members. Prominent among these early Friends were members of the families of Gaige, Estes, Hoag, Shelden, Moore, Briggs, Wilber and Wing, and many of their descendants now live in the vicinity. In tracing the history of this society down to the present time, we find that through the close proximity of other churches, and various other causes, the membership has fallen off to nearly one-fourth its former number. Yet, as a society, it still holds a wide influence for good.

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DUANESBURGH.

The frame church building of this society is situated a little more than a mile west of the village of Duaneburgh. The cemetery adjoins the churchyard on the west, and the parsonage grounds adjoin it on the north.

The nucleus of the Duaneburgh congregation was formed in 1793 by Rev. James McKinney, who that year came from Ireland, although the formal organization may not have taken place for two or three years afterward. Rev. Mr. McKinney was settled as pastor in 1797. The congregation worshipped mostly in a stone church in Princetown. This was a kind of union church, occupied by different denominations as they could arrange among themselves, though finally occupied solely by the Presbyterians. Mr. McKin-

ney resigned his pastorate in 1802 and removed to South Carolina, where he died the same year.

For six years the congregation was without a pastor, though not without preaching. In 1804 they built a substantial frame church upon the present site. Before this they often worshipped in private houses, and during the summer in the woods; but more frequently in the barns of Walter Maxwell and Robert Liddle. The land for the church and burying ground was given by the Hon. James Duane. The first elders were Walter Maxwell, Robert Liddle, John Cullings and James Duquid, all natives of Scotland.

The second pastor was Rev. Gilbert MacMaster. He was born in Ireland and came to this country when a boy. He first entered the medical profession and engaged in that work for a time in Pennsylvania, but feeling that he had a call to the ministry, he fitted himself for it. He was ordained and installed August 8, 1808. He remained pastor of this congregation for nearly thirty-two years and exerted a wide influence, not only in the town where he lived, but throughout the country. He was one of the organizers of the County Bible Society in 1823. He received the title of Doctor of Divinity from Union College in 1828. He wrote several volumes, all on religious topics. He resigned and removed to Indiana in 1840. His death occurred at New Albany, Ind., in 1854.

In the following year, Rev. Andrew Gifford Wylie became pastor of the congregation, and was ordained and installed August 29, 1841. He was born in the City of New York, and was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. He remained for nearly thirty years, ending his labors here with the close of 1870, when he accepted a call to a church in Philadelphia. In 1880 he was called to a church in Cincinnati, O., where he remained till his death in December, 1884. Rev. S. M. Ramsey became the next pastor, and is now (1885) occupying the pulpit. He began his labors here in October, 1873, and was installed the 14th of the following month.

The parsonage was built in 1829. The lot (some eight acres) was given by Miss Catherine Duane. The present church building was erected in 1836 and 1837, and was first occupied for worship June 18, 1837. A Sabbath-school was opened about 1834, and has been steadily carried on since. Mr. Robert Liddle occupied the position of superintendent for thirty-three years. The following persons have held the office of Ruling Elder: First Elders, Walter Maxwell, Robert Liddle, John Cullings, George Duquid; elected in 1811, James Young, James McBean; in 1825, John Tulloch, John Liddle, James Maxwell, Charles McClew; in 1839, Alex. Liddle, Daniel Stuart, James Turnbull, Ebenezer Cullings; in 1856, Robert Liddle, Robert Cessford, Charles L. Tulloch, John Cullings; in 1867, Daniel Stuart, Richard Hunter, James McCallum, Andrew Hunter. The following named persons have held the office of Deacon in the congregation: 1811, John Liddle, James Maxwell, John Tulloch, Thomas Kelly, Wm. Cummings; 1825, Daniel Stuart, Ebenezer McMillan, Simon Kennedy; 1826, Alex. Liddle, Samuel Young, James Ingersoll; 1839, Robert Cessford, Walter Maxwell, Robert Liddle, Thomas Liddle, John Cullings; 1856, Daniel Stuart, Richard Hunter, Peter Cameron, Andrew Hunter, James McCallum; 1867, Thomas R. McClew, James Liddle, Alex. Liddle, John E. Cullings, Richard L. Hunter.

Dr. Alexander McLeod, who for thirty-two years, from 1801 to his death in 1833, ranked among the leading ministers of the City of New York, was for six years a member of this congregation. Dr. E. D. McMaster, who in 1838 became President of Hanover College, Ind.; in 1845, President of Miami University, Oxford, O.; in 1850, Professor in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at New Albany, Ind.; and at the time of his death, in 1866, was at the head of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Chicago, Ill.; spent his boyhood days here, and early became a member of this congregation. Dr. A. S. MacMaster, for nearly fifty years a gifted Presbyterian minister, as also his brother Benjamin J. MacMaster, editor of *The Freeman's Journal*, New York City, were also members of the congregation. Through Divine grace this congregation has been a blessing to many, and the names of Maxwell, Cullings and Liddle, Tulloch, Stuart and McCallum, McClew, Hays and Young, Cessford, Hunter and Turnbull, with many others, will long be precious in Duaneburgh.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DUANESBURGH.

Concerning the origin of the First Presbyterian Church of Duanesburgh, usually designated the Mariaville Presbyterian Church, the records show that on May 11, 1842, an application was made "TO THE REV'D CLASSIS OF MONTGOMERY," by the following named persons, for the organization of a church agreeably to the Constitution of the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church of North America. George Lasher, S. H. Marsh, J. D. Brown, J. M. Lasher, Daniel Nellis, James Haver, James Frost, Hiram Hansett, F. J. Quackenbush, Alex. McGaugh, Jacob M. Pulver, Henry Pulver, Philip Bronk, James Love, Thomas Gifford, Jeremiah Murray, Charles Dorn.

An entry in the records relates that,

"Whereas, by virtue of an act entitled 'An Act making such alterations in the Act of Incorporating Religious Societies, as to render the same more convenient to the Reformed Protestant Dutch Congregation,' passed the 7th day of March, 1788, we, the subscribers, Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, or Congregation, formed or established in Duanesburgh, in the County of Schenectady, having assembled together at the school-house in Mariaville, on the 19th day of July, 1842, by virtue of the said act, do by these presents certify that the Trustees of said Church or Congregation, and their successors forever, shall, as a body corporate, be called, distinguished and known by the name, style and title of the Minister, Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church at Mariaville, Duanesburgh, in the County of Schenectady.

"In witness whereof, we, the Elders and Deacons, have hereunto set our hands the day and year above mentioned.

"George Lasher, Philip Bronk, Elders; Henry Pulver, Hiram Hansett, Deacons.

"The above-named consistory were ordained to their respective offices after a sermon was preached from Phil. 2: 15, by Rev. James Stevenson, of Minaville, Montgomery County, on the 19th day of July, 1842."

George Lasher was elected President of the Consistory, and Philip Bronk, Stated Clerk.

It appears that the movement toward the erection of a house of worship somewhat preceded the petition to the Classis of Montgomery asking the organization of a church. A record of the proceedings of the Building Committee is preserved, and opens as follows:

"At a meeting of the inhabitants of Mariaville and vicinity, held at the school-house on the 24th day of June, 1841, convened for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety and necessity of erecting a church edifice in said village, Silas H. Marsh was called to the chair and James M. Lasher appointed secretary.

"On motion, it was resolved that a committee of six persons be appointed to ascertain the terms upon which an eligible site can be procured, and to report to the next meeting; and that said committee consist of the following named persons, viz.: Silas H. Marsh, James Frost, Daniel Nellis, Jeremiah Murray, Henry Pulver and James M. Lasher."

This committee reported, at a meeting held soon after, that one of their number, Mr. James Frost, had tendered them a square half acre in a locality so suitable that they thought it unnecessary to make farther inquiry. Whereupon the donation of Mr. Frost was gratefully accepted by the meeting. At a meeting held in the same place five days later, July 2, 1841, a committee of eight were appointed to solicit subscriptions. This committee pursued their work with varying success until they had secured sufficient to warrant the commencement of the work.

"Whereupon Silas H. Marsh, James M. Lasher and Daniel Nellis were appointed a building committee, with authority to contract for the erection of an edifice upon the best model they could find."

November 10, 1841, the committee entered into a contract with Mr. Thomas Gifford for the erection and completion of an edifice 38 x 50 feet, containing a gallery on three sides, and furnished with pulpit and pews of the best style of such country churches of that time.

The corner-stone was laid in June, 1842, and the building completed in November following. The house was dedicated December 7, 1842.

Rev. James Donald, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, and a member of the Presbytery of Albany, was

called, and by the Classis of Montgomery duly installed as pastor of this church on Wednesday, June 7, 1843. The Rev. Charles Jukes preached the sermon and gave the charge to the pastor, and the Rev. James Stevenson gave the usual charge to the people. The first communion service of the church was held June 11, 1843. Previously to this the communion roll had been prepared, and was as follows:

Received by certificate, from the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church of Florida (the Minaville Church), Helen Lasher, Margaret Pulver, Ann Hansett, Margaret Pulver, Charlotte Pulver, Catherine Wiggins, Jemima Patterson, Elisabeth Bronk, Mrs. Catherine Bronk, Miss Catherine Bronk, Dorothy Dorne, Jesse Platt, Elsy Platt, Hannah Conklin, Israel Sriver, Rebecca Green, Dorothy Conklin.

From the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church of Schenectady, Daniel Nellis and Mary Nellis.

Received on confession of their faith and satisfactory evidence of their piety, Agnes Conklin, James Brown, Margaret Brown, Ann Maria Ryne, Margaret Templar, John Dougall, Hannah Dougall, Maria Dennison, Susan McMaster, Eliza Clark, James M. Lasher, Catherine Clogston, James H. Patterson, Prudence Patterson, making a communion roll of thirty-one members, exclusive of the four members of consistory—a membership in all of thirty-five.

The Rev. Mr. Donald closed his services on the last Sabbath of April, 1851. From this time until 1859 the church had no pastor, depending altogether upon such pulpit supply as could be obtained from Classis and otherwise. At this point the records show the following:

"The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Duanesburgh having obtained leave of Classis to change their ecclesiastical relation, made application to the Presbytery of Albany to be received under their care at their annual meeting in January, 1859.

"After this they obtained leave of the Court to be known by the title and to hold their property under the incorporate title of the 'First Presbyterian Church of Duanesburgh.'

"On June 15, 1859, said church was fully received and entered on the roll by the Presbytery of Albany.

"On February 13, 1861, the *ecclesiastical name* was, by Presbytery, for the sake of convenience, and without interfering with the corporate title, changed on Presbytery Roll to the church of Mariaville."

During the year 1859 the Rev. David Edgar served the church as stated supply. In 1860 the Rev. David Lyon was called, and remained until March, 1876.

In June, 1877, the church secured certain ministerial services of Rev. R. A. Hill, pastor of the Princetown Presbyterian Church. Mr. Hill retained his pastoral relation to the Princetown Church, and in addition preached at Mariaville on Sabbath afternoons, and performed such pastoral services as lay in his power, continuing for five years, and as long as he remained at Princetown. In June, 1882, he received a call from the Seventh Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Pa., which he accepted, and so severed his connection with Princetown and Mariaville.

Again the church was dependent upon temporary supply until November, 1883. At this time Rev. J. W. Johnston became stated supply, and has so acted until the present time.

In the early part of the year 1885 an effort was made to repair the old church. \$2,500 were raised by subscription. Rev. J. W. Johnston, J. W. Waddell and A. N. Bronk were appointed a committee to have charge of the work, which was completed in July of the same year, the church edifice having been thoroughly renovated and modernized.

At the present time the session consists of Rev. J. W. Johnston, Moderator; and Elders James M. Lasher, Joseph Green, George Lasher and John Turnbull.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF DUANESBURGH.

But little is known of the history of the Baptists within the bounds of this church previous to the commencement of the present century, no records having been preserved of an earlier date. But it is well understood that there were some Baptist brethren and sisters among the early settlers who came soon after the close of the revolution. One such emigrant was Elijah Herrick, so well known fifty years ago as "Father Herrick." He had taken an active part in the struggle for independence, and soon after its termination

embraced Christianity, and subsequently entered the ministry, beginning his labors with the sparse population by which he was surrounded. He was one of those who early proclaimed the truths of the Gospel to the inhabitants of Duaneburgh. Having been inured to the privations and rigid discipline of the camp, he was well prepared to meet the fatigues and undertake the responsibilities of his new vocation. To his military training is attributed a remarkable punctuality, which characterized him through life, for he fulfilled his engagements regardless of weather or distance.

In 1800, according to the earliest record extant, there was a small society of Baptists in the northern part of Duaneburgh known as "Elder John Mudge's Church," but destitute of a pastor, and another in the adjoining town of Florida under the pastoral care of Rev. Reuben Mudge. These small churches being too feeble to support two ministers, mutually resolved to unite in a common organization. This union was effected by the usual observances July 29, 1800, and the church of Duaneburgh and Florida was constituted with seventeen members, nine of whom were women.

The fifth year after the new organization, the number of the members had increased from seventeen to sixty-four, and the sixth year witnessed the conversion of so many that the membership was increased to nearly one hundred by baptism. In 1809 nineteen were received by immersion, and the total number amounted to one hundred and thirty.

Conversions occurred nearly every year subsequent to this, varying in general from one to six and amounting in the aggregate to about ninety in thirty years. But deaths, removals and exclusions more than counterbalanced these and reduced the number more than one-half in that period of time. For many succeeding years but little transpired that is worthy of notice. There was a union meeting-house which the Baptists might occupy a part of the time, but which was little used on account of its unfavorable location, and in 1834 they were yet holding their meetings in school-houses and private dwellings at different places as expediency suggested. In 1835 a house of worship was erected sufficiently commodious for all ordinary occasions at that time. In 1840 there were only sixty communicants in the church, and but sixteen male members who could be relied upon to aid the organization steadfastly with their presence and substance. Nearly all of these had passed the meridian of life, and the most efficient laborers had before them but a few of their allotted "three-score years and ten." Fears were entertained that the church might be disrupted, but during the winter of 1842 and 1843 sixty-two converts were added to the church membership by baptism. A large number of these were between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five, the extremes being twelve and seventy. In the winter of 1853 another revival brought an accession of forty-nine members, all but ten of whom were heads of families.

Previous to 1857 no rupture had occurred in the church, but at this time internal dissensions arose. But in the midst of these difficulties a revival began which resulted in the addition by baptism of a number of new recruits greater than that of those who had withdrawn. Those who had not entirely departed from the church united hand in hand in working for the common good. In 1864 a parsonage was purchased which had long been needed, and in 1868 the old meeting-house was sold and a larger and better one was erected. Some slight repairs have been put on them from time to time. Following is a list of the successive pastorates:

Reuben Mudge, 1800-1805; Elnathan Finch, 1805-1810; Rev. Mr. Bolton, 1810-1811; Reuben Mudge, 1812-1813; Rev. Mr. Longworthey, 1813-1814; Bartimeus Braman, 1814-1819; Charles Howe, 1823-1833; Calvin Herrick, 1833-1843; Joseph Earl, 1843-1856; G. W. Abrams, 1857-1859; David Corwin, 1859-1861; W. F. Benedict, March, 1861, to November, 1862; D. B. Collins, 1863-1867; J. W. Starkweather, 1867-1870; E. Ashton, 1870-1871; J. S. Johnson, 1871-1872; I. Powers, 1873; Leonard Smith, April, 1878, to the present time.

THE TRUE REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH.

The church at Mariaville known by the above name, originated about forty years ago with persons living in that

vicinity who were members of the church at Charlestown under the pastoral care of Rev. Henry V. Wyckoff. They met first as a reading society of worship at the house of Mr. Henry I. Smith. After some time had elapsed, they called Rev. Marcus Bellinger as their minister, and he preached in a school-house for a number of years. About 1858 or 1859 Rev. Perry Devenburgh assumed the pastoral care, and remained about twenty-five years, till his death in December, 1882.

The present house of worship was built about 1864 or 1865, and services have since been conducted therein. Since the death of Rev. Mr. Devenburgh the church has been connected with the Classis of Hackensack of the True Reformed Dutch Church, and has been supplied by ministers of that Classis.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF QUAKER STREET.

The Christian Church of Quaker Street was organized after a series of meetings extending through February and March, 1859, under the labors of Revs. Henry Brown and B. F. Summerbell. Quite a number of persons united in the organization, under a covenant declaring that Christian character should be the test of their fellowship, and the Bible their rule of faith and practice. The name Christian was applied as pointing directly to Christ as the head of the Church.

Rev. Henry Brown was pastor until July, 1859, when, at his urgent request, the church obtained the services of Rev. Thomas Holmes, who remained until April, 1861. Since that time the pulpit has been filled by a number of different ministers, prominent among whom was Rev. Charles E. Peake, who served two terms, aggregating seven years. He was a victim of the wrecked steamer Narragansett, on Long Island Sound. Among others may be mentioned Revs. Philip Couchman and Henry Brown, and the present pastor, Rev. W. Jay Reynolds.

The church building was erected in 1859-60, and was dedicated in June of the latter year. Rev. B. F. Summerbell preached the dedicatory sermon, and was assisted in the services by Rev. John Ross, Rev. Henry Brown and Rev. Thomas Holmes, the pastor. The house underwent repairs about five years ago at an expense of about \$1,500, and was rededicated by Rev. Austin Craig.

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER.

The Church of the Redeemer (Universalist) was organized December 16, 1875, with sixteen members, as follows:

Dr. Joseph Braman and wife, Daniel Van Henn and wife, George Lester and wife, Fayette Peek, Murray Peek, DeWitt C. Chase, DeWitt C. Lester, Ida Belle Lester, Saxton M. Cheeney, Eunice Cheeney, Benjamin K. Elton, William Broeffle and Susannah Broeffle.

The organization was effected at the house of Dr. Joseph Braman, under the ministrations of Rev. D. C. Davis. The growth of this church was rapid and steady during the next few months. The membership was soon increased to thirty, and January 17, 1875, three persons were confirmed by baptism. For a time the interest continued unabated, but at length, owing to causes over which those most deeply interested had no control, it abated until services were held irregularly, and then ceased altogether.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MARIAVILLE.

The Mariaville Methodist Episcopal Church was organized about twenty-five years ago. Solomon Pulver, Henry Mickle, Evert Van Anken, and others were among the early members. The ground upon which the church was erected was given to the Society by Messrs. Marsh and Delamater. During a portion of the time this church has been connected on one pastoral charge with the Methodist Episcopal Churches of Minaville and Fort Hunter. It has not for some time had a regular pastor, and is at present supplied.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF QUAKER STREET.

At Quaker Street there is a flourishing Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Rev. Mr. De Vol is the pastor. This organization owns a good-sized frame house of worship, located at the foot of the rise of ground separating the two parts of the village. Early meetings were held on the hill.



Kirby Wilber

KIRBY WILBER.

This well-known and highly-respected citizen of Quaker Street was born in that village September 25, 1820, a son of Kirby and Mercy (Allen) Wilber. His father came from Dutchess County about 1812, and was for a time engaged in tanning on a small scale. Soon, however, he opened a small custom shoe shop. In this shop, and with their father as an instructor, the Wilber brothers, R. P. U., E. G., W. K. and Kirby, gained their first knowledge of that business with which they were destined to be so prominently identified in after life.

Kirby Wilber was educated sparingly in the public schools of the time and place, and taking more naturally to business than to mechanical pursuits, at the age of fourteen he became a clerk in the old time store of Job Cleveland. Two years later he went to Schenectady, and was for a short time a clerk in the store of John Ohlen. Returning to his native town, he became a salesman in the store of James E. O'Neill in July, 1837. In the spring of 1840 he removed to Brainard's Bridge, Rensselaer County, and entered a store belonging to a manufacturing company, in which Seth Hastings, late of Albany, was one of the partners. There he was employed most of the time for about eight years, at the expiration of which time he bought the stock

of goods of his former employers and engaged in trade for himself, continuing during the succeeding five years.

In the spring of 1853, Mr. Wilber disposed of his interests at Brainard's Bridge and returned to Quaker Street to take an interest in the boot and shoe manufacturing business which had been established by his brothers, his successful connection with which is noticed elsewhere. The present store of Wilber & Co. was opened in 1860 and was owned in connection with the factory until 1867, when the firm dissolved and was reorganized. The successive owners of the store since that date have been Kirby & E. G. Wilber; Kirby, E. G., E. & Charles C. Wilber; Kirby, E. G. & Charles C. Wilber; and Kirby & Charles C. Wilber. E. Wilber withdrew in the spring of 1874, and E. G. Wilber in the spring of 1884, since when Kirby Wilber and his son, Charles C. Wilber, have conducted the business under the style of Wilber & Co.

In 1843 Mr. Wilber married Lucy Ann Crego, of Chatham, Columbia County, N. Y. She died in 1877. In 1880 Mr. Wilber married Mrs. P. J. Auchampaugh, of Quaker Street, who is still living. He has five children—a son and four daughters—by his first marriage. The son is Mr. Charles C. Wilber, his partner, mentioned above. Mr. Wilber is a Democrat, and a staunch and conscientious defender of the principles of his party, but he is not, except

in the best and truest sense, a politician. Not an office seeker nor a vociferous campaigner, he yet takes a proper interest in the public welfare, and, politically and otherwise, he has ever been actively interested in all measures calculated to advance the public good. Since 1859 he has been a member of the First Christian Church of Quaker Street.

So frequent mention is made of the name of the late R. P. U. WILBER in these pages, that some reference to the personal characteristics which made him so successful and so popular seems to be demanded. He was a man of industry and originality; a man of enterprise and perseverance; a man of great public spirit, and an almost unconquerable desire to do something which would benefit the community in which he lived. He was the originator of the business which has made Quaker Street so well known, and an early and liberal employer of skilled labor. It was his part to pave the way for the triumphs which came after he was gone from earth, and well and earnestly, and with wonderful forethought, did he perform his allotted task. During his busy and useful life it is doubtful if there was one good public interest that did not receive his moral support, his kindly encouragement and his financial aid. A more public-spirited man never lived in Duaneburgh, his means and opportunities considered. It has been nearly a third of a century since he died, but he is remembered with kindly regret by nearly every old resident of the town.

E. G. and W. K. WILBER's names will be long known in Duaneburgh as those of men who nobly did their part in the work of human progress as it came to their hands.

VILLAGES AND HAMLETS.

The villages and hamlets of this town are Quaker Street (Village and Depot), Mariaville, Duaneburgh, Braman's Corners, Patterson's Corners and Green's Corners.

QUAKER STREET.

This village is divided by a somewhat steep ascent into two parts, known generally as Quaker Street and Quaker Street Depot, though during late years the terms Old and New Quaker Street have obtained some popularity. One post-office, located at Quaker Street proper, suffices for both villages. Their combined population is not far from 600. Evidences of thrift and enterprise are to be seen in all directions.

Quaker Street on the hill was early settled by the Briggses, Moshers, Hoags, and others, and was so named because the residences of numerous members of the Society of Friends were scattered along the road running through what is now its center. Quaker meetings were held there early in the present century. For many years there was only one store there, one of the first buildings erected after a few dwellings having been a Quaker meeting-house. The second store was built at least forty-five years ago. A prominent merchant in the old store (now Wilber's) was Lewis Freeman. Thomas Barnes, James Gale and Asa Marshall were among its earlier keepers. It later had many occupants, one of whom was Daniel T. Hoag, now of New York, till it passed into the hands of the Wilbers. The second store was occupied by Job Cleveland, Seneca Enders, Thomas Rushmore and Kirby Wilber, among others, and has been open only a few months during the past twenty-five years. The present store of Wilber & Co. has been in the management of the family and firm with which they have been connected since 1860.

Robinson P. U. Wilber began making shoes at Quaker Street for the retail trade in 1845. Three years later he began manufacturing for wholesale orders, employing about twelve men, and continuing until 1854, when he died. While he was on his death-bed the sale of the enterprise to his two brothers—Edwin G. and W. K. Wilber—was arranged and consummated. In 1857 Messrs. DeWitt Duane McDonald, Milton R. Hoag and Kirby Wilber became partners in the business, the firm name being changed to Wilbers, Hoag & Co. Mr. McDonald withdrew two years later, but re-entered the firm in 1861. In 1863 W. K. Wilber retired, but resumed his interest in 1865. There were no fur-

ther changes in the style or personnel of the firm until 1867, when Mr. Hoag sold his interest. About this time the general store, which had been run in connection with the factory for about ten years, was taken into the building now owned by Kirby and Charles C. Wilber, Kirby and Edwin G. Wilber purchasing that and W. K. Wilber and D. D. McDonald retaining the ownership of the factory under the style of Wilber & McDonald. In 1872 the factory passed to the proprietorship of Mr. McDonald and William H. Davis, the firm name being McDonald & Davis. Mr. Davis retired in 1875, when Mr. McDonald and his son (Seward McDonald) became owners, under the firm name of D. D. McDonald & Son. Thirty to thirty-five men find constant employment in this factory, making heavy boots and shoes for men and women. Twelve hundred cases are manufactured yearly, and the monthly wage-list foots up to \$600. In connection with their factory the firm conduct a retail boot and shoe store and a general grocery and flour and feed store. The store proper is a frame building, two stories high, 22 x 55 feet, and the factory is a two-story frame building, 35 x 40 feet. The products of McDonald & Son are placed mostly in Albany, Schenectady, Schoharie, Delaware, Otsego, Greene and Ulster Counties, though large shipments are made to Ohio. Mr. McDonald also owns a store at Quaker Street Depot.

The grocery of Ira Estes on Main street was opened about twelve years ago. The old W. S. Lang stand has been occupied for several years by Melville W. Mead's tin, hardware and furniture store. Mr. Mead is an enterprising business man and a prominent citizen. Mr. Estes, above mentioned, was a stock dealer of repute before he became a merchant, and is known as a man of brains and progressive ideas.

Lewis Hunt conducted a paint shop here for many years. Dying a few years since, he was succeeded by his son, Chauncey B. Hunt.

The old hotel was occupied for many years by William R. Wing, Simon Vedder, George Rich and others. It was burned in 1875, and soon afterward the American Hotel, on the same ground, was nearly completed by John J. Ladd. It passed from his possession by legal process and was finished by other parties. It has been occupied by E. Bigelow, Frank Bigelow, John J. Wilber and others, and is now in possession of Howland McComber.

In 1870 Arthur D. Mead & William McGraw began the manufacture of carriages. Their works were on Main street in the building now occupied by John Moon, blacksmith. Ten men were employed and about seventy-five wagons were made annually. A second blacksmith shop is that of Christian Mackley. W. H. Harden has carried on a small tailoring business for many years.

It was the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad which gave activity and growth to the enterprising village known as Quaker Street Depot and New Quaker Street. The first store was erected there by Hicks W. Sheldon soon after the completion of the railroad. He was succeeded by Mott T. Sheldon, Mead Sheldon and Van Wagner, and the building was finally closed as a store and converted into a tin shop.

About five years ago a store was opened at the Depot by W. K. Wilber & Son, which is now the property of L. A. Wilber. Milo J. Auchampaugh built a store here about ten years ago, and died not long afterward. He was succeeded in its occupancy by Elias Jones, and he by S. McKinney & Sons in 1885.

The tin shop in the old Sheldon store above mentioned was established by Dexter Clement, whose successor was A. Manchester, whom Manchester & Wilber succeeded. In the spring of 1885, Elmer J. Fake opened a drug store adjoining this establishment.

The Shoudy House was built by James Shoudy about twelve years ago. He has ever since owned it. The present lessee and keeper is John Boyce. The Central Hotel was built in 1880 and managed until the spring of 1885 by George Passage, whose successor was William Van Benschoten. Dexter Clement erected a hotel building in 1883, and occupied it only a short time. It is now occupied as a residence and meat market by Emmet Schermerhorn. Whitney's railway eating saloon was opened about two years ago.

Quaker Street Depot is the terminus.

*Francis Hoag***FRANCIS HOAG.**

FRANCIS HOAG was born in Duanesburgh September 27, 1820. His early life was passed upon a farm, and his educational advantages were only such as were afforded by the common schools near by. His parents were of the good old Quaker stock, and his early religious training was in the faith and doctrines of the Society of Friends, to which faith he has clung through a long and successful life, and whose pure teachings did much to develop in him a beautiful character and an earnest, steadfast and thoughtful nature. Active, energetic, persevering, he has surmounted obstacles which seemed for the time to thoroughly block the way of his advance; but no worldly ambition ever led him to forget that strict integrity and honesty of purpose were called for at his hands.

At the age of twenty-four, Mr. Hoag married Eliza D. Carpenter, a young woman of rare merit, well calculated to be a help and strength to him in all the relations of life. In 1858 they moved to Albany, where he engaged in the wholesale provision trade, for a time in Exchange street and afterward in Dean street, in which business he continued successfully for nearly nineteen years. In business, as well

as in social life, he won many warm friends. His noble manly, straightforward way of dealing, won him the confidence of men in leading business circles, and his credit was almost unlimited. In 1861, the death of his beloved wife brought to him the greatest sorrow of his life. Their union, during a period of more than fifteen years, had been an unusually harmonious one. The war of the rebellion had soon afterward entered upon its dreadful career, and from his private sorrows the mind of Mr. Hoag was providentially drawn to the sorrows of a great people. His sympathies were aroused, and he gave freely of his means and influence to aid the Union cause and lend succor to the wounded heroes in Southern fields and in Southern hospitals. December 30, 1862, he married his second wife, Mary J. Case, of Chatham, Columbia County, N. Y., and on the opening of the new year (1863) he brought her to brighten his desolate home. Two sons have been born to them: Francis Hoag, Jr., in January, 1867, and William M. Hoag, in September, 1874.

In 1877, having bought a farm near his old home at Quaker Street, he disposed of his business in Albany and moved his family to the country, building for himself a handsome residence, and settled quietly down to the enjoyment of a peaceful old age.



George Lasher

HON. GEORGE LASHER.

Hon. GEORGE LASHER was born in Duanesburgh September 20, 1834, a son of James McMillan Lasher, who was also born in Duanesburgh July 4, 1811. George Lasher, his grandfather, was one of the early settlers of the town. He was a native of America. His wife, Helen McMillan, was born in Scotland. Simon Kennedy, father of the wife of James McMillan Lasher, and maternal grandfather of the subject of this notice, was for a long time a resident of Schenectady County. His wife was Mary Perry, of Connecticut.

Mr. Lasher was educated in common schools and at Eastman's Commercial College in Poughkeepsie. He has been a merchant, and is at present engaged in farming. He cast his first vote for John C. Fremont for President, and has acted with the Republican party ever since. He has served his townsmen as Justice of the Peace; was Supervisor in 1876, 1878 and 1880; and was elected to the Assembly in 1880 by a majority of 382 over Edward W. Paige (Democrat), the Democratic majority in 1879 having been 299. In his responsible capacity as legislator he served with credit to himself and to the gratification of his constituents. As a private citizen he enjoys the fullest confidence of all who know him.

DE WITT DUANE McDONALD.

DE WITT DUANE McDONALD, son of Anson D. and Hannah (Macomber) McDonald, was born in Wright, Schoharie County, N. Y., December 15, 1827. He removed in infancy to Quaker Street and has since lived there. His educational facilities were limited to those afforded by the common schools, and even those he was unable to attend regularly, even the winter terms, after he was thirteen years old.

At that tender age, when most boys are yet treated like children and have no thought of the stern duties of life, young McDonald left home and began the battle of life in the humble capacity of a farmer's boy of all work. He grew from boyhood to manhood, still doing his daily labor behind the plow, hoe in hand, or in the fields of grain ready to be garnered, and became in all respects a practical and well-informed farmer; but it was not as a farmer that he was destined to make a place and name for himself among his fellow men.

At the age of twenty he entered the service of R. P. U. Wilber, at Quaker Street, to learn the trade of shoemaking. He soon mastered all of its details and came to be considered a thorough and skillful workman. He remained in

Mr. Wilber's employ until the latter's death and after that event in the employ of Messrs. E. G. & W. K. Wilber until the reorganization of the firm, when he became a member of it. His subsequent business career is given elsewhere in these pages. It only remains to us in this connection to call attention to the sterling qualities of the man, who, from a poor lad, illy educated and without means or influential friends, has made his way against adverse circumstances to the head of a large manufacturing business, and won the esteem and confidence of all who have known him boy and man.

August 3, 1853, Mr. McDonald married Rebecca Weaver, of Quaker Street, a daughter of Jacob and Deborah (Coffin) Weaver, who has borne him eight children, five of whom are living. Formerly an old-time Whig politically, Mr. McDonald gradually developed such principles as to ally him with the Republican party, of which he has been a member since its inception. He is a member of the First Christian Church of Quaker Street.

MARIAVILLE.

This small village was named in honor of a daughter of Judge James Duane.

This was the scene of some quite extensive business operations by Hon. Silas H. Marsh, who was once County Clerk of Schenectady County and represented his district in the Assembly. He was a man of enterprise and business ability, and was responsible for about all of the growth of the village up to the time his identification with it ceased. About 1830 he bought some land of "Katie" Duane and built a store and a grist-mill and a saw-mill. About fifteen years afterwards he disposed of the mercantile business to Jacob Quackenbush. After passing through other hands, it became the property of James M. Lasher & Sons in 1862. In 1879 it was purchased by Bronk & Bradshaw, and in 1881 by A. N. Bronk, the present owner.

For a time Marsh was the proprietor of a trip-hammer and shop, where the manufacture of axes was carried on on a small scale, leasing it to other parties, and finally selling it. It is now owned by Dr. Delamater and operated by Marcus Delamater. An old grist-mill here had years before been converted into a carding and fulling mill and been operated by Jeremiah Murray and William Murray. This was bought and torn down by Marsh, giving place to his grist-mill, which, with the saw-mill and store, was sold in 1862 to James M. Lasher & Sons. This firm consisted of James M., John K. and William M. Lasher. In 1865 John K. Lasher removed to New York, William M. following him in 1868, since when the firm has been James M. Lasher & Son, the junior partner being Hon. George Lasher. These gentlemen have done much to promote the prosperity of the locality, and are reckoned among Schenectady County's honored and substantial business men. Sixty or more years ago Dr. Staley built a saw-mill. It changed hands several times. Jeremiah Murray once owned it. It is now the property of Abraham Devenburg. Another saw-mill, built by Richard Walpole in 1844, has been converted into a cider and vinegar and broom-handle factory, and is owned by David W. Walpole. David Lander built a hotel about sixty years ago which was kept by different parties, among them the veteran landlord, Benjamin Wiltsie, until 1863, when it was converted into a cheese factory by a stock company who purchased it for that purpose. It was idle some time, and was finally purchased by James M. Lasher and converted into dwellings. Formerly a hotel, which had been made of two old dwellings moved together, was occupied part of the time as a hotel and part of the time as a store. It was reconstructed by Jeremiah Murray. About 1840 two other dwellings were joined and remodeled for hotel use. This public house was opened by Daniel Nellis. Many landlords succeeded him. It has been kept during the past twenty years by Benjamin Wiltsie, one of the oldest hotel men in Schenectady County.

Patterson & Strong and John Van Housen were once prominent merchants here. Besides the store of A. N. Bronk, the village now contains those of Miss Matilda Hansett, for

some time postmistress, and J. A. Bradshaw, who began trading during 1885. John Devenburgh is a carriage-maker.

DUANESBURGH.

This is a village of about one hundred inhabitants, located on the Schenectady branch of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's system of railways, and contains, besides its business places of different kinds, a small depot and a post-office. The pioneer settlers of this place were of Scotch, English and Dutch stock, and their sturdy traits are easily discernible in the residents of to-day. The place was formerly called Jamesville, in honor of a wealthy Mr. James, who once owned considerable landed property in the vicinity. Its present name was adopted many years ago, though it is generally called by residents and their neighbors The Four Corners. As has been seen, the early attempts of Judge Duane to make Centre Square, a mile distant, the nucleus of a village, was a failure.

The house now owned and occupied by Dr. Stephen G. Delamater as a residence, was seventy-five years ago kept as a tavern by Joseph Gaige, who was for many years a Justice of the Peace. Mr. Gaige sold the tavern to his nephew, John Gaige, about sixty years ago, and it was subsequently owned by Julius Keyes and Henry C. Ham. The latter sold it to Dr. Delamater.

The present hotel, nearly opposite the building whose history has just been given, was built by John Post during the closing years of the revolutionary war. About 1820 a Mr. Edwards became the proprietor, and soon afterwards John Hogg bought it and retained control until 1830, when it was purchased by Truman Case, who owned and conducted it till 1874, when he died and it passed into the possession of his son, Josiah Case, who has since filled the roll of mine host at Duanesburgh, greatly to the satisfaction of his townsmen and the traveling public.

About sixty years ago, Mr. James E. O'Neill was sent here in the employ of Messrs. Brodwick & Duane, of Schenectady, widely-known merchants of their day. At first he sold goods for them on commission, walking to Schenectady every Saturday night to render a report of the week's business to his employers. It was not long before he was enabled to enter business on his own account. He erected the first store in the village and put in a stock of goods. He also bought a tan-yard west of the village, which had been established by one Gathan, and managed it successfully until 1840. His store was closed shortly after his death, which occurred in February, 1878. Mr. O'Neill had acquired considerable wealth as the result of a long life's honest industry and was a leading citizen of the town, well respected throughout the county.

The leading store in Duanesburgh is the one now owned and occupied by Mr. John L. Turnbull. The building was erected by Philip James Fredericks a little less than twenty-five years ago. He kept the store until his death, about 1870, when John S. Hoag purchased it, remaining in control until 1872, when the present proprietor became the owner. A general stock of dry goods and groceries is kept. Mr. Turnbull has been Town Clerk of Duanesburgh most of the time for the past decade, and is regarded as a stirring and energetic man.

The village school-house was removed to its present location forty years ago. It was previously located down by the creek, where it had stood for a time beyond the memory of any citizen.

A century ago, Dr. Abraham Delamater was a practicing physician in Duanesburgh and a surgeon as well. About the year 1800, his brother, Dr. Peter Delamater, came and for many years had an extensive ride. In 1843 Dr. Stephen G. Delamater, son of Dr. Peter Delamater, began here the practice of his profession, a service to the people which has been continued uninterruptedly ever since. Among the other early physicians were Dr. McDermott (1815-25) and Dr. Wilson (1825-35). While generally this locality has been remarkably free from those epidemics which rage from time to time in less favored places, it has not wholly escaped. Twenty years ago there was a diphtheritic epidemic which carried off twenty people in the immediate vicinity of the village.

BRAMAN'S, PATTERSON'S AND GREEN'S CORNERS.

These localities are named in honor of the families of Braman, Patterson and Green. The first mentioned was

formerly known as Parlor Street, in honor of the Parlor family. Dr. Joseph Braman opened a store there as early as 1840, and fifteen years later sold it to Nathaniel Herrick. George Bradford occupied it later. The present merchant is George A. Snell. William Gardinier once kept a grocery there. The Parlors once had a tannery and carried on farming and other business.

We take pleasure in making mention of the following well-known citizens, who by their guaranteed support have helped to insure the publication of this valuable work: H. P. Allen, Mrs. A. E. Abrams, Samuel Brown, Martin Bradt, A. M. Bronk, C. W. Bronk, P. A. Brumagin, John

O. Becker, Delos Braman, William Chadwick, John E. Cullings, G. W. Conover, Frank M. Chapman, S. G. De Lamater, D. C. Davis, Marcus De Lamater, C. I. Dodge, John Davenport, George Dennison, Ira Estes, J. D. Featherstonhaugh, James Ferguson, A. M. Gaige, Joseph Green, William J. Gardner, Francis Hoag, David B. Hall, T. Roymen Herrick, John L. Jones, Alexander Liddle, George H. Love, Robert Lidell, George Lasher, Melville Mead, Alonzo Macomber, D. D. McDonald, R. W. McDougall, Alexander McDougall, James L. McMillan, J. K. Rhinehart, W. F. & J. H. Shute, J. L. Turnbull, Darius Tripp, J. H. Titus, E. G. Wilber, John D. Wood, I. R. T. Wood, James Wright, David W. Walpole, Benjamin Wiltse, Kirby Wilber.

HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GLENVILLE.

By Rev. E. E. TAYLOR.

GLENVILLE was named from the original patentee, Sanders Leendertse Glen. It was formed from the fourth ward of Schenectady, April 14, 1820. It is the only town in the county north of the Mohawk. In 1665 the country around Scotia was granted to Glen, a native of Scotland, who had removed to Holland in 1645 on account of religious persecutions. After several years spent there in mercantile pursuits, he migrated to the New Netherlands.

The greater part of the surface is covered with a thick deposit of drift, consisting principally of clay, with an occasional outcrop of slate, and underlaid with hard pan in the south and western part, and sand and gravelly loam in the eastern. The underlying rock is generally the shales of the Hudson River group, which crop out in the valleys and the bottom of ravines. In portions of this town this is underlaid by bird's-eye limestone, from which are obtained both lime and stone for building. This rock crops out on the banks of the streams and from the declivities of the steeper hills. The central and western parts are occupied by rugged and wooded hills, abruptly rising from the valley of the river to a height of 300 feet. The eastern part is nearly level. The Mohawk intervale are very fertile, and have been, to a considerable extent, devoted to the culture of broom corn.

The streams are Crabskill, Chaugh-ta-noon-da, Aalplaats and Jan Wemp's Creeks, and Verf Kill.

Sanders Lake, in Scotia, is about a mile in circumference.

Van Slyck's Island was granted to Jacques Van Slyck November 13, 1662, and later a new grant to Jaques Cornelise and Jan Barentse Wemp.

Hoffman's Ferry was established about 1790 by Harmanus Vedder, and called Vedder's Ferry until 1835. It was bought in 1835 by John Hoffman, from whom it took its present name. The present owner is Jeremiah Vanderhyden. The rate of passage is five cents for a single individual and ten cents for one horse and carriage. This is a railroad station of the Central Road, and is an insignificant place at present, with no hotel. It has

a small store, and has a hay barn for storing hay in transit for the market. The business interests center on the opposite side of the river, in Rotterdam.

In 1820, when the town of Glenville was set off from the City of Schenectady, much of the unoccupied land that was held by the city was cut up and sold in twenty-acre lots to residents of the city for wood lots. This was sold in single lots only, and but one to the same person. This rendered farming on these lands for a long time impossible. It was only in December of 1883 that the city sold the last of its lots, and many of these twenty-acre lots are still held. This has been one cause of delaying the development of this part of the county.

Among the first settlers were the Glens, Sanderses, Vieles, Van Eppses, Ostoms, Tolls, Barhydts, Browns, Johnsons and Carpenters.

The following are the names and occupations of many of the principal persons in the town:

C. P. Sanders, farmer, milk business and gardener; ex-Judge W. T. L. Sanders; Charles P. Sanders, Jr., attorney; John B. Wilson, speculator; W. C. Carpenter, carpenter; Lorenzo Van Patten, blacksmith; Michael Whalen, blacksmith; J. V. Z. Weaver, farmer and Justice of the Peace; Lorenzo Lovett & Son, wholesale butchers; Willis C. Lovett, Justice of the Peace; Jacob H. Halenbeck, dealer in tin-ware, and is Overseer of the Poor; N. S. Cheesman, practicing physician; William Channer, broom business; G. F. Becktel, shoe store; James H. Gillett, cabinet-maker; Thomas Gould, Justice of the Peace; S. V. R. Ford, blacksmith, and has been Justice of the Peace; Lansing Slover, grocer; James Collins occupies one of the old Glen buildings, and is a son of Charles Collins, railroad contractor, etc.; Philip Becker, on the Reese Place; Philip R. Toll, farmer, two miles north of Scotia; Charles I. Toll and Philip R. Toll, farmers; Tunis Vrooman, farmer, three miles north from Scotia; Alexander Van Eps, farmer, east from Scotia; John S. Lansing, farmer and milk dealer, two miles north of

Scotia; A. A. Livingston, farmer and milk dealer, four miles northeast of Scotia; Joseph K. Passage, farmer; William Hasel, farmer, and occupies the old Viele Place, near Charles H. Tolls, one and one-half miles from Scotia, on the western turnpike; B. H. Clute, farmer, three miles from Scotia; Adam Swart and many others of the same name, six miles from Scotia, and descendants from first settlers; Charles H. Toll, extensive farmer, one mile from Scotia; Dan. Toll, farmer and broom manufacturer, two miles from Scotia; William Rector, farmer, five miles from Scotia; Charles W. Merselles, farmer, one and one-half miles north from Scotia; James T. Wyatt, farmer, four miles north from Scotia, and is now Supervisor; John Houck, farmer and Commissioner of Highways, two miles northeast from Scotia. Eastward: William Dougal, farmer; Charles Dawson, farmer, and with his father in saw and grist-mill just over the line in Charlestown; J. J. Van Eps, farmer, and keeps hotel; James Van Vorst, farmer; J. H. Seeley, farmer, near the Freeman Bridge; Henry Slover, farmer and milk dealer; John Oliver, farmer; Henry Palmer and Joseph Birch, farmers. Charles Closson keeps town house and has a store. The building has been used as a town house for the past twenty years. Dan. Frank, farmer; George S. and Henry Cornell, farmers.

In the western part of the town, W. S. Hammond, hotel and store; Philip Green, farmer; George P., John H. and Thomas Conde, farmers, and descendants of first settlers; Matthew R. Brown, farmer; J. D. Van Eps, farmer; George H. Van Buran keeps blacksmith and wheelwright shops; Peter Y. Vandever, farmer and assessor; James Ostrom, farmer; Thomas Parks, harness-maker; Johnson and Spencer and T. R. Patten, farmers; Matthew Halenbeck, wagon-maker; Solomon Halenbeck, farmer, and former Justice of the Peace for several years; Rockwell Harmon, farmer; Edwin Young and L. B. Rulison, physicians.

Hoffman's Ferry: Latin Johnson, farmer; Aaron Bradt, farmer.

WEST GLENVILLE.

West Glenville is a village ten miles from Schenectady, containing twenty-eight dwellings, two blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, one harness shop, one shoe shop, one meat shop, one hotel—now closed—and two churches. It is in the northeast part of the town. The First Reformed Church was organized in 1813, with an endowment from Schenectady. The church was built at once, and again rebuilt in 1872 at a cost of \$8,500. There was half an acre connected for a burial ground, and there has since been added to it one and one-half acres, and the trustees are now making arrangements to again enlarge it.

The minutes show the membership of 1883 to be 278; and three Sunday-schools connected with the church, with an aggregate of 200 scholars.

The different pastors and dates of their settlement over the First Reformed Church, Glenville: 1. Rev. Peter Van Zandt, installed September 8, 1818, the town then being embraced as the Fourth ward,

Schenectady; 2. Rev. Elbert Slingerland, installed July 8, 1824; 3. Rev. Seth Bunnell, installed December 8, 1835; 4. Rev. Wilson Ingalls, called February 4, 1840, and soon after installed; 5. Rev. Abram H. Myers, called February 2, 1852, and soon after installed; 6. Rev. Peter Burghardt, called September 5, 1855, and soon after installed; 7. Rev. George H. Peck, called December 13, 1861, and soon after installed; 8. Rev. John Miner, called February, 1864, and soon after installed; 9. Rev. William Randell, called February 9, 1874, and soon after installed; 10. Rev. William J. Hill, called May, 1882, and soon after installed; 11. Rev. M. F. Nickerson has received an informal call, and is expected to be installed very soon.

The Methodist Episcopal Society of West Glenville was organized in 1822 by Rev. Roswell Kelley, pastor, with seventy members. The first house of worship was erected in 1823, and the present house in 1848. The church is built of brick, and valued at \$2,500, and will seat two hundred and fifty persons. This society was connected with the village of Charlton until 1877, when it was connected with a flourishing society at East Glenville, with a separate pastor. The present membership of the charge is one hundred and twenty-four. Its successive pastors have been Reverends T. Dodgson, C. Pomeroy, R. Kelley, John Fassett, W. Little, D. Poor, H. Williams, George C. Wells, L. D. Sherwood, W. T. Heard, H. Williams, John Thompson, J. S. Hart, J. F. Cope, W. F. Tiffany, R. Washburn, J. B. Wood, R. Patterson, S. S. Ford, William Earle, J. H. Coleman, D. T. Elliot; and since 1877—Sutton, F. R. Sherwood, Joel Martin, J. P. Crane, W. W. Whitney, and the present pastor, Rev. H. S. Allen. This church a year ago procured two acres for a burial ground.

EAST GLENVILLE.

East Glenville contains a neat Methodist Episcopal Church that has been lately rebuilt and refurnished, with a burial ground attached, and a flourishing society and Sabbath-school, and a Lodge of Good Templars.

The Town House is half a mile south of the Methodist Church. It was formerly a hotel, but at present has no license. A grocery store is kept in one part of it. This is all there is of the place.

High Mills is in the northeast part of the town. It is a small place, containing a grist-mill and saw-mill, a blacksmith shop, wagon shop, and a few other small shops. The town lately built at this place, across the Aalplaat Creek, a fine iron bridge in place of the old wooden structure that formerly existed here.

SCOTIA.

The village of Scotia lies between the Mohawk and Sanders Lake, about half a mile from Schenectady. Reeseville was a suburb of Scotia of seven hundred and twenty-eight houses, and was named after a wealthy gentleman by the name of Reese who moved into that neighborhood. The two places have since grown together, and are now

known only as Scotia. Scotia, the ancient name of Scotland, was the name given by its first settler. This tract commences at a point nearly opposite the eastern extremity of the city, and extends westerly along the north side of the Mohawk about two miles. The first patent conveying it was granted November 3, 1665, by Governor Richard Nicolls to Sanders Lendertse Glen (*Anglice*, Alexander Lindsay Glen). Mr. Glen was an immediate descendant of the Earl of Crawford and Lindsey, whose family had been on the peerage roll up to 1399. Mr. Glen took to wife Catharine McDonald, the daughter of a Highland chieftain. He left Scotland in the year 1645, to avoid persecution in consequence of the stand he had taken in reference to certain religious disputes which then agitated the country. He sided with the unfortunate Charles the First, who vainly strove to introduce the English liturgy into Scotland. Mr. Glen first emigrated to Holland, and engaged in mercantile pursuits for a number of years. He finally came to New York, in company with a number of Dutch families. There and in Albany and in Schenectady he resided for several years. Some time previous to 1690 he moved to Scotia. The country seat of Mr. Glen is still owned by his descendants, the Sanders family. Although it bears the advanced age of one hundred and seventy-two years, it bids fair to outlive many of the flimsy structures which characterize the American architecture of the present century. The iron figures showing the date of its erection (1713) are still to be seen. During the French wars it was rendered defensible. At the foot of a small hillock a few yards east of the mansion, tradition points to the spot where the Mohawks occasionally performed their sacrifices.

As is elsewhere related, Captain Daniel Toll, during the French and Indian war, was the first victim of the Beukendaal massacre.

Scotia contains about ninety dwellings, two stores, one hotel, without license, two blacksmith shops, shoe store, wagon-maker's shop, and a few other places of business. It has a large district school-house, two churches, fire department, and a lodge of Good Templars.

The Sanders House in this village is one of its principal attractions. It is built a few feet to the north of where the first house stood, that was spared from destruction by the French and Indians in the terrible destruction and massacre at Schenectady in 1690, on account of favors shown previously by Mr. Glen to the French and Indians in a time of their suffering. The present stone house was built in 1713, and is still owned and occupied by the Sanders family. The present occupant is Charles P. Sanders, of the seventh generation, with a large household of Sanderses. Their present farm consists of 1,000 acres, 100 acres of which is used for market garden. One hundred cows are kept on the farm, besides a large quantity of other stock. Thirty acres are used for berries. The yield of these rich alluvial flats, thoroughly worked as these are, is astonishing. Mr. Sanders has one acre that yielded this year 1,300 bushels of carrots. Mr.

Sanders has three milk wagons and four vegetable wagons for delivery daily to Schenectady, and ships a large quantity of vegetables to New York.

In 1873 a fire department was organized by voluntary subscriptions, two cisterns were built, one hand engine was purchased, with 400 feet of hose and cart. In 1877 this fire company was duly incorporated by the Legislature of the State, and provisions made for its support, at an annual expense not to exceed \$250, to be levied and collected upon the school district as usual school taxes are.

The organization of this company was the outcome of a series of incendiary fires, which will long be remembered by those who were residents of the village during the winter of 1873-74. For all winter long, every resident in turn was fully armed and determined to mete out justice on the spot to the incendiary. From four to ten persons patrolled the streets each night from dark to daylight, at times through snow knee-deep and in blinding storms, around every house, barn and outbuilding in the place. In two years' time, within a radius of less than one mile, four dwellings in which families were living, one vacant house, two stores, one broom shop, two blacksmith shops, one rope-walk about 400 feet long, one straw barn, one large broom-corn dry-house, three large barns, together with other small outbuildings—all of these, with their contents, furniture, horses, cows, hogs, fowls, etc., were entirely destroyed, excepting one store and dwelling, from which a portion of the contents were saved. Several other buildings were set on fire, and the fire was extinguished with small damage. The largest of these fires, and the most exciting, was on the night of November 1st and morning of the 2d, 1873, when the large rope-walk and fifteen other buildings were on fire at the same time. Since the organization of the fire company the loss by fire has been very small.

The only bridges of note are across the Mohawk, of which two are toll road bridges, and four railroad bridges, all built of iron, of the latest style and best construction. The road bridge from Scotia to Schenectady deserves special mention. At this crossing was the first ferry over the Mohawk from Schenectady to Scotia. The first bridge was built in about 1807, and was in two immense spans with but one pier, which was in the center of the river. (This pier still remains, and is the center pier of the present bridge.) This first bridge when about completed, before a team had crossed it, fell of its own weight into the river.

A second structure was built in 1809, with two additional piers. Burr, the justly celebrated architect, planned and superintended the construction of it. In 1821 this bridge was reconstructed, having passed into the hands of the President, Directors, etc., of the Mohawk Bridge Co., by an Act of the State Legislature; the cost was \$49,000, divided into \$5 shares. Four additional piers were added, and a cover was made over the entire length. By these additions the appearance was very irregular, and the new piers steadily settled and leaned, so that the bridge became as zig-zag as a rail fence,

and its crazy appearance to those who passed through it in its last days, will not soon be forgotten. Yet so firmly was this wooden structure put together, that the process of taking it down was a task of great difficulty.

Over this bridge the Saratoga Railroad to Albany first crossed in 1832, and continued until 1835, when the Albany and Utica Railroad was built, and united with the Saratoga and built a double-track bridge half a mile below.

The Saratoga Railroad Company, when they first built their road across the Scotia bridge, in consideration of land furnished them by Mr. Sanders on the Scotia side for depot, freight-houses and repair shops, etc., bound themselves to stop trains there twice a day forever, and to do all their repairing there. The railroad company soon after, with more forethought, bought Mr. Sanders' claim against them for the sum of \$1,500, and, as before stated, united with the Utica Railroad in 1835, and built a double-track bridge half a mile below this.

By a special act of the State Legislature in 1874, the town of Glenville came into possession of the old covered bridge and took it down, and built the present superb structure, an iron bridge of nine spans, and now permits the inhabitants of Glenville to pass over it free, charging toll to all others. This bridge was constructed by the Remington Manufacturing Company, Ilion, N. Y., at a cost of \$61,000. C. P. Sanders, President; I. H. Toll, T. C.; Committee: S. Hallenbeck, I. W. Pangburn, S. V. R. Ford, M. C. Dyer; and C. Hilton, engineer.

The Utica and Albany Railroad, to obtain their charter, were required to build a dyke, for a highway, from the Scotia bridge to the Sanders' residence, a distance of half a mile, across the low flats that overflow yearly, and to keep it in repair. This dyke is fifteen feet high above the flats. When the Utica Railroad became a part of the New York Central, to obtain their charter they were obliged to take this dyke and keep it in repair. The Central is now trying to throw its maintenance upon the town. Fifteen years ago, Rev. F. F. Wilson secured sufficient funds, by voluntary subscription, to build a plank walk along this dyke, and in 1874 it was replaced by a stone flag walk through money obtained in the same manner.

There is an iron toll bridge three miles down the river, connecting Glenville with Niskayuna.

The New York Central crosses from Schenectady over a four-track bridge into Glenville, and runs nine miles through the town along the Mohawk westward.

The Boston and Hoosac Tunnel Railroad, built in 1883, runs three and one-half miles in this town, and crosses on an iron bridge into Rotterdam, there connecting with the West Shore road at Rotterdam Junction. It is a single track, although its charter and bridges provide for a double track.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company runs three and one-half miles in the town, passing out of Schenectady on a double-track iron bridge of their own, having left the Central's bridge.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company have also lately built another iron bridge across the Mohawk, one and a half miles below the city, for a side track.

CHURCHES.

The Second Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Glenville, at Scotia, was organized November 21, 1818. At its organization it was called the North Branch of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Schenectady, from the fact that its first members who resided on this side of the Mohawk were formerly connected with the Dutch Church in Schenectady. This name was retained till the year 1834, when the present one was adopted. The organization of this church was largely due to the efforts of the Rev. Andrew Yates, D.D., a professor in Union College, who for several years did missionary work among the people then settled here. The names of the first consistory of this church were: Cornelius De Graff, John Haverly, John Van Patten and Aaron Van Antwerp, elders; Alexander Van Epps, Cornelius Viele, Simon Van Patten and Aaron R. Schermerhorn, deacons. The church edifice, built of brick, was completed and dedicated July 14, 1822. There was no settled pastor until the year 1826, it being supplied by Revs. Yates and Proudfit, of Union College. The following is the list of its pastors and the length of their pastorates: Rev. James Murphy, eight years; Rev. Hermon B. Stryker, three years; Rev. A. J. Stuits, four years; Rev. A. B. Crocker, six years; Rev. N. D. Williamson, four years; Rev. Elbert Slingerland, three years; Rev. Philip Berry, eighteen months; Rev. F. F. Wilson, six years; Rev. A. A. Bookstaver, about two years; Rev. A. Johnston, four years; Rev. H. Van Derwart, six years. The present pastor is Rev. D. K. Van Doren. He took charge of the church May 1, 1883. The first parsonage for the use of the minister was purchased October, 1829, of Barent Cramer. It was located in the village of Scotia, and cost three hundred dollars. The present parsonage is situated upon the church lot, and occupies the most beautiful and sightly location in this region. It was built in the year 1870, and belongs to the Ladies' Society connected with the church. This society was organized in the year 1850, and was incorporated in 1870.

In the rear and on either side of the church is the cemetery, including about an acre of ground, which was laid out in lots and inclosed by a stone wall in the year 1849. This stone wall was the work of John Chamberlain and John Sanders. The burial place prior to the year 1849 was along the highway that leads from the church to Scotia.

The interior of the church edifice has twice been repaired; the first during the pastorate of Rev. F. F. Wilson, when the high pulpit, that stood on pillars, and the old-fashioned square pews were removed; and again during the pastorate of Rev. H. Van Derwart, when a thorough internal renovation and remodeling took place at a cost of over \$3,000. It is a gem in its present internal arrangement. The present consistory are: W. T. L. Sanders, William Rector, John Lansing and John Houck, Elders;

and Joseph Cornell, Peleg Thomas, Anthony Stalker, John McMichael, Deacons. The present membership of the church is one hundred and sixty-one. The Superintendent of the Sabbath-school is Hon. W. T. L. Sanders, who has occupied that important position for twenty-five years.

The Scotia Baptist Church of Glenville was organized July 1, 1840, with a membership of sixty-seven, which has increased to one hundred. The value of church property is \$9,000.

The pastors have been: S. McCollum, 1840 to 1842; H. J. Moshier, 1842 to 1843; William Bowen, 1849 to 1850; Almon Virgil, 1851 to 1852; Rev. Mr. Green, 1853 to death; J. H. Kent, ordained January, 1855, to May, 1857; J. W. Jones, 1856 to 1861; T. S. Rudgers, 1862 to 1864; Simeon Knapp, ordained February, 1865 to death, May 15, 1867; C. L. Van Allen, 1867 to 1871; H. W. Webber, 1871 to 1873; J. R. Merriman, 1873 to 1876; T. H. Judson, 1877 (six months); T. G. Lamb, 1877 to 1878; Edward Conover, 1879 to 1883. The pastorate is now vacant.

The church for about twenty years has had a burial ground of four acres. These facts are furnished by W. G. Caw, Esq., clerk.

SCHOOLS.

There are eighteen districts and school-houses, of which fourteen are in the town and four are joint districts connecting with adjoining towns. School buildings are generally good. Scotia has a fine two-story brick structure, with two departments, employing two first-class teachers. Mr. Wemple is principal. It has 105 scholars. Whole number of scholars in the town between the ages of five and twenty-one years, 780. The pay of teachers is from one to two dollars per day.

THE TOLL FAMILY.

Anterior to the arrival in America of Karel Haensen Toll, nothing definite of the direct lineage is recorded. The name, however, is not unknown in foreign history.

In old records the name is variously written as Toll, Tol, Van Toll, Van Tholl, and Tollins.

Henrich Toll, surnamed "the Valiant," commanded the Dutch ship in which he bore the order for the surrender of the New Netherlands to the English, June 7, 1674.

Karel Haensen Toll was born in Norway about 1650. He was a mariner, and while on a cruise was captured off the coast of Central America and imprisoned in the fortress of Puerto Bello. He escaped, swam to a vessel, and reached New York probably in 1680. He soon came to Albany, and there married Tyobert Binckhout. In 1684 they removed to Schenectady and bought part of the seventh flat. In 1694 he was a member of the Dutch Church. He bought many parcels of land, some of them quite extensive, and once owned what is now the Court House lot in Schenectady. In 1715 he was elected to the first Assembly convened after the accession of George I, and served

until 1726. He died at his home at Maalwyck on March, 1737. Much of the property of Karel Toll is still in the possession of his descendants. Maalwyck is retained by the heirs of his son Simon, and those of his son Daniel occupy Beukendaal.

Captain Daniel Toll, born July, 1691, married Grietje, daughter of Samuel Bratt, September 8, 1717. Seven children were born, three of whom were living when he made his will in 1747. His wife died in 1743. He was the first victim of the Beukendaal massacre. [An account of this massacre will be found in connection with the French and Indian Wars.]

Johannes Toll, son of Daniel, was born August 13, 1719, and married Eva Van Petten December 23, 1742. He died December 21, 1746, leaving a wife and one child.

Carel Haensen Toll, son of Johannes, born February 1745, married Elizabeth, daughter of Philip Ryley, January 10, 1767. He inherited the Beukendaal estate. He also purchased other lands. Tunis Vrooman, John Winne and others now own part of these lands. He died at the homestead August 26, 1832, and Elizabeth also died there October 25, 1839. They had seven children, five daughters, all of whom made desirable marriages, and two sons, Johannes and Philip Ryley. Philip R. Toll married the daughter of Judge Isaac De Graff, of Schenectady. He served in the war of 1812 under General Wade Hampton. In 1834 he removed to Michigan, where he subsequently died.

Johannes Toll (John C.) was born September 13, 1780. He graduated from Union College in 1799, and subsequently entered the ministry of the Reformed Dutch Church. He lost his health in 1821, and removed to his farm, where he died October 21, 1849. His wife survived him until October 9, 1859. They had three sons and one daughter.

Philip Ryley Toll was born February 9, 1811, at Canajoharie, N. Y., and married Maria De Graff, of Amsterdam, N. Y., September 13, 1842. He died at the homestead April 7, 1883. He left a widow and one son and two daughters, the eldest being married to Mr. E. D. Hill, of Albany, N. Y., September 13, 1882.

The Toll homestead, now called Locust Vale, is at present managed by Frank R. Toll. It is situated on the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, four miles northwest from Schenectady, and contains 180 acres. The residence, farm buildings and soil make it one of the finest homes in the section. The residence is surrounded by thrifty orchards. Upon the premises are Toll's Vinegar Works, where during the last year 10,000 bushels of apples were made into cider.

Miss Maria Antoinette Toll kindly furnished a detailed history of the Toll family. We regret that lack of space forbids our publishing it in full—only a part appears above. Miss Toll is a daughter of the late Philip R. Toll, Esq., Glenville, of the Beukendaal (Beech Valley) Farm. She is a fine artist, having studied under Mr. Palmer, of Albany, and has lately opened a studio in Schenectady that is attracting much attention.



Wm Rector

WILLIAM RECTOR was born in Glenville (then the fourth ward of the city of Schenectady) December 4, 1806, a son of Zachariah and Maria (Moore) Rector, natives of Schodac, Rensselaer County. His education was limited to the course of instruction then afforded by the common schools of his native town. He was obliged to work to earn a living for himself, and also to aid his father's family, from the time he was a mere lad. May 12, 1834, he married Miss Susan Haverley, of Glenville. His mother died December 24, 1841, and his father November 15, 1845, when he inherited the latter's farm. In December, 1847, he purchased his present homestead, and moved thereon in March, 1848, from the family homestead, a mile north, where he has since lived. Mr. and Mrs. Rector have been spared through a long period of married life. They have had three children, two of whom, Christian Rector and Mrs. J. T. Wyatt, are living.

Mr. Rector has been a life-long Democrat, and has taken a creditable interest in public affairs. The concerns of his town have commanded his at-

tention to a considerable degree, and he has served his townsmen as Assessor, Commissioner of Highways, and for twenty-seven years as one of the Trustees of the Town Fund. He, as has his family, has long been connected with the Dutch Reformed Church of Scotia, to the interests of which he has ever been a willing and liberal contributor.

BROOM CORN.

The first broom corn planted in the Mohawk Valley was about fifty years ago.

Isaac Toll, father of Charles B. Toll, present proprietor of the Maalwyck Farm, one and one-half miles west from Schenectady, was one of the first to engage in its production. George Canfield, of New Jersey, came to Glenville about 1840. He invented the hand-planter, the horse-planter, and greatly improved the broom-winder.

Mr. Charles H. Toll was one of the largest cultivators and consumers of broom corn in the world. He planted 100 acres, and converted into brooms the products of 1,000 acres yearly. Mr. Toll invented a machine for winding brooms

by steam, one for sewing them, and also one for inclosing bunches of brooms in manilla sacks. His sales here have been 47,000 dozen brooms annually, 20,000 dozen of which he manufactured.

Since 1877 the broom-corn interest has declined in Glenville. The competition of western lands is the cause. Parties from Glenville have gone to different parts of the country and given instructions in the business. Glenville farmers have lately engaged quite extensively in the milk business, supplying the people of Schenectady, and

now only a few small broom factories remain in the town. [In connection with the history of the industries of Schenectady, a more general account of broom corn appears.]

We take pleasure in making mention of the following well-known citizens, who, by their guaranteed support, have helped to insure the publication of this valuable work: J. G. Lansing, P. A. Livingston, C. W. Marcellus, Joseph K. Passage, Wm. Rector, Charles P. Sanders, Jr., F. R. Toll, James Van Vorst and J. D. Van Epps.

HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NISKAYUNA.

By Rev. E. E. TAYLOR.

INTRODUCTION.

THE name of this town is said to be derived from the term Nis-ti-go-oo-ne, or Co-nis-ti-glo no, by which it is known on the old maps. The name signifies extensive corn flats. The term was also applied to portions of Watervliet and Halfmoon, and the first ward of Schenectady. Upon the advent of the whites, this place was occupied by a tribe of Indians known as the Conistigione.

Niskayuna was formed from Watervliet, Albany County, March 7, 1809, with a population of 681; and a part of Schenectady was annexed in 1853. Niskayuna contains 10,471 acres. It lies on the Mohawk in the east part of the County. Its surface is mostly upland, terminating in steep bluffs upon the river valley. The intervalles are very rich and productive. A strip of land, about a mile wide, extending back from the summits of the bluffs, has a hard clay soil, and a considerable portion of it is swampy and unfit for cultivation; further south the soil is sandy. Population of the town in 1880 was 990.

The following are the names, which tradition has preserved, of a few of the chiefs of the Conestigiune band, who inhabited this section of country: Ron-warrigh-wok-go-wa, signifying in English the great fault-finder or grumbler; Ka-na-da-rokh-go-wa, signifying a great eater; Ro-ya-na, a chief; As-sa ve-go, big knife; A-voon-ta-go-wa, big tree. Of these, the first made the greatest objections to alienating their lands to the whites, and in every deed was careful to have a covenant inserted, by which the rights of hunting and fishing were preserved to them. It was a common saying of his that "after the whites have taken possession of our lands, they will make kaut-sore (literally 'spoon food' or soup) of our bodies." Yet he was on the most friendly terms with the whites, and was never backward in extending to them his powerful influence and personal aid during their expeditions against the Canadians during the

French war. He took great delight in instructing the boys of the settlers in the arts of war. He was constantly complaining that the government did not prosecute the war against the French with sufficient vigor. The council fire of the Conestigiune band was held about a mile south of the village.

Niskayuna was visited in 1687 by a spy from the Adirondacks, the allies of the French. Hunger drove him to the house of a Dutchman by the name of Van Brakle, where he devoured an enormous quantity of the food set before him, which happened to be pork and peas. Although his movements had been marked with more than usual caution, the eagle eye of "the Grumbler" detected him. He waylaid him on leaving the house of his entertainer, and after a short conflict made him bite the dust. Having severed the head of the corpse from the body, he repaired to the house of Van Brakle, and threw the head into the window, exclaiming to the owner, "behold the head of your pea-eater."

The first settlement of this town was made by an independent class of Hollanders—like the pioneers of Schenectady—who located outside the manor line to avoid the conflicting exactions of the Patroons, and the trading government of the New Netherlands. It was settled at an early date, about the same time that Schenectady was.

EARLY SETTLERS.

Among the early settlers were the Clutes, Vedders, Van Vrankens, Groots, Tymersons, Consauls, Pearses, Van Brookhovens, Claas Jansen, and Krygiers (now written Cregier).

From an old document it appears that Harmon Vedder obtained a patent for some land here in 1664.

The mention of Captain Martin Krygier revives the memory of an old Holland soldier who is buried on this soil, and was one of Governor Stuyvesant's most trusted friends, ambassadors and

officers; who had fought for him in many battles, and was his strong right arm in the front rank in every hour of danger. His descendants still reside in Niskayuna and some of them probably on the old homestead farm.

Niskayuna is honored in holding such a deposit of the old colonial times, and his descendants, who are numerous in the State, should revere his memory.

Among others worthy of note are Johannes Clute, who settled in Niskayuna in 1684 on lands he received by will from his rich uncle, Captain Johannes Clute, of Albany. He married Baata, daughter of Garret Van Slichtenhorst, and granddaughter of Brant Arantse Van Slichtenhorst, who was director (head man) of the colony of Rensselaerwyck in 1646, and who proved to be a foeman worthy of Governor Stuyvesant's most bitter animosity. She was also the granddaughter of the indomitable Colonel Philip Pieterse Schyler. In 1629, her husband, Johannes, being a prisoner in Canada, this remarkable woman, with great ability managed all his business affairs. Johannes Clute died November 26, 1725, and was buried in Niskayuna. He left surviving him three sons and five daughters.

JOHN DUNCAN, a young Scotchman, with his wife, Martha March, came to Schenectady in 1755. He was possessed of a good capital, and opened an extensive mercantile establishment on an improved and extensive scale, and was very successful. He subsequently purchased all of the present town of Princetown and titles to lands; these are now held under grants from himself and sons. He built a country seat called the Hermitage (that after his decease burned down) on his farm of 800 acres in the town of Niskayuna, a part of which is at present owned and occupied by ex-Senator Charles Stanford. The place is on the Schenectady and Albany turnpike, about three miles from the City of Schenectady. At the Hermitage, Mr. Duncan died May 5, 1791, aged 69 years, much esteemed for generous hospitality and unostentatious benevolence.

Shortly after the Hermitage was burned down, the place came into the hands of the Schuylers, who built a house on a rise of ground about one hundred yard snorth of the site where the Hermitage stood—the site of the Hermitage is distinctly marked by its old well that stood by the door, which the writer was shown while visiting the place. The Schuylers, after living here a number of years, sold the place to Captain Hand, and after a few years he sold the place to John I. Vrooman, and he sold it to Josiah Stanford in March, 1859. Josiah Stanford died 1861, and in 1865 Senator Charles Stanford, son of Josiah, bought the place of the heirs, rebuilt, enlarged and modernized the dwelling, and converted the place

into a first-class stock farm. Mr. Stanford owns several valuable farms, and is largely connected with many leading enterprises in the City of Schenectady. He is a large stockholder in and a Director of the Water-works, and in the McQueen Locomotive works.

SPOOR JAN SYMONSE lived in Niskayuna in 1664. His daughter Antjo was killed by the French and Indians at Schenectady in 1690.

CLUTE.—There were three individuals of this name who early became residents of Albany or Niskayuna—Captain Jan, his nephew Johannes, and Frederick Clute.

Captain JAN CLUTE came to Beverwyck about 1656, from Nuremburg, and became a trader and considerable land holder in Beverwyck, Loonenburgh (opposite Hudson), Niskayuna, etc. He was held in great esteem by the Indians, from whom he obtained large grants of land. It is not known that he had any other relative here than Johannes Clute, his nephew, who on his death in 1683 became his heir.

JOHANNES CLUTE. —Through embarrassment, caused either by his own or his uncle's debts, Johannes was obliged to part with a portion of his land soon after the death of his uncle. To add to his other troubles he was taken prisoner in 1692 by the Indians and carried captive to Canada. While absent, his affairs were managed by his wife, Baata Van Slichtenhorst. On the 28th of June she cited Sanders Glen and Barent Wemp, Administrators of Sweer Teunise Van Vechten's estate, before the Court of Albany, demanding of them nine pounds six shillings and six-pence "for y^e remaining pay^t of a negro named Jacob, sold by old John Cloet to Sweer Teunise, and produce y^e book of s^d John Cloet, Senior, kept by her husband, John Cloet, Junior." The defendants asked time. By his wife Baata, daughter of Gerret Van Slichtenhorst, he had eight children. He was buried in Niskayuna, November 26, 1725.

FREDERICK CLUTE came from Kingston to Niskayuna in 1703, and bought one hundred and fifty acres of land from Johannes Clute. What relationship, if any, existed between them is not known. He married Francyntje Du Mond, or Dumont, probably in Kingston, before removing to Niskayuna with six children, and had four afterwards.

All the Clutes in this region are believed to be descendants from either Johannes or Frederick.

ROBERT H. WENDELL, a son of Hendrick Wendell, Jr., of Albany, was born February 7, 1760. He was an attorney-at-law, and married Agnes, daughter of Peter Fonda. He died at his country seat, on the Troy turnpike, within a short distance of Schenectady, July 7, 1848, aged eighty-eight years and five months.



H. R. Wendell

HENRY R. WENDELL.

The Wendell family, which is so creditably represented at Schenectady, Albany and elsewhere in this part of the county, is of Holland extraction, and during many generations has ranked as one of the leading families of Albany and vicinity. Three brothers of the name were among the early settlers in this county. In time a descendant of one of these married Helen Van Rensselaer, daughter of Hendrick Van Rensselaer and Catrina Van Brough, his wife. Catrina Van Brough was the daughter of Johannes Van Brough and Catrina Jans, his wife. Catrina Jans was the daughter of Roeloff Jans and Anneke Jans, his wife, who, after his death, became the wife of Dominie Everhardus Bogardus. Thus it will be seen that all of the descendants of Jacob Wendell and his wife, Helen Van Rensselaer, are descendants from the celebrated Anneke Jans, whose possessions, both in her own right and through her marriage with Dominie Bogardus, embraced much of what is now highly valuable property in and near New York City, including the Trinity Church property, which has

figured so prominently in the public prints for many years. The unique coat of arms of the Wendell family is in possession of Miss Agnes L. Wendell, of Schenectady.

Henry Wendell was a son of Jacob Wendell above-mentioned, and was born in Albany. He married Mary Lansing, of the old Albany family of that name, and to them was born Robert H. Wendell, father of Henry R. Wendell. Henry Wendell held under the crown, and later, under the sovereignty of the State, the office of High Sheriff, with a jurisdiction quadruple the extension it has at present. At the breaking out of the revolutionary war, both he and his son, Robert H. Wendell (who was born in Albany, February 7, 1760), joined the cause of liberty, and engaged each year in the perils of the same. Robert served in the counties of Herkimer, Schoharie and Saratoga; was engaged in the principal battles and skirmishes on the Mohawk, and more particularly at West Canada Creek, where the British force from Canada, under the command of Colonel Butler, Major Ross and Brandt, was met and routed, and Butler killed. The war over, he was educated professionally, and

at the age of twenty-four removed to Schenectady and commenced practice as an attorney. He was the oldest attorney on the list, and during his career an active pleader as well as counselor. Schenectady then claimed Robert H. Wendell as her onward legal son, and at his decease an honored sire in the legal circle. Some years he spent, now asserting, now defending rights, till disease came and he was forced to quit his profession. He removed to College Hill and built his house and improved his lands—changed pursuits, and brought to bear on agriculture a sound and philosophic judgment; and thus lived till he died (July 7, 1848), when in the memory of those who knew his virtues, he left a recollection sweet as pure, and a eulogy in their hearts for one who cherished for his fellow-men true benevolence, and for his country devoted patriotism. His wife, Agnes Fonda, was born in Schenectady March 26, 1760, and died on College Hill March 30, 1828.

HENRY R. WENDELL, son of Robert H. Wendell and Agnes Fonda, his wife, was born at the corner of State street and Mill lane, Schenectady (now the Y. M. C. A. property), where his father resided, September 18, 1784, and died on College Hill, at the Wendell homestead, March 13, 1868, aged eighty-three years. His youth was spent in the house of his father at Schenectady, and in the household of General Matthew Trotter, of Albany. He prepared for college at the best schools in Albany, and in due time was graduated from Union College. It is not strange that the son of one revolutionary patriot and the grandson of another should have inherited a martial spirit, nor that it should have been rendered active and intensified by the events which preceded the outbreak of the war of 1812-14. He was one of the first to offer his services in defense of his country, and on the 3d of January, 1812, he was commissioned as ensign in the Sixth Regiment of Infantry. He was placed in charge of a recruiting rendezvous at Schenectady soon afterward, and met with much success in raising volunteers. In July following he received orders to close the recruiting station and join Captain Nelson's company, then lying with other troops at Greenbush. Not long afterward the entire command was ordered to the Niagara frontier, and Mr. Wendell did gallant service and braved many dangers at Black Rock, Queenston, Lewiston and Fort Niagara, and later at Plattsburgh and Sackett's Harbor. He was promoted to be a second lieutenant January 12, 1812, and to be a first lieutenant March 27, 1814. His several commissions are preserved by his daughter, Miss Agnes L. Wendell, and a record left by him shows that he did not terminate his military career until August, 1815, when he was constrained to resign by a probability of being brought into conflict with the civil authorities of Schenectady, near which place he was at that time stationed. Documents which are still in existence show that he merited and received the commendation of his commanding officers. After the war he lived for a time at Niskayuna, at Alexander's bridge (since the construction of the canal called the aqueduct), where

he combined the duties incident to attending to the bridge—store-keeping, farming and tavern-keeping. Later he removed to Schenectady and passed the balance of his life on College Hill. November 22, 1817, he was married by the Rev. Charles Stebbins, of Schenectady, to Miss Parmela Perry, daughter of Benjamin and Love Perry, who was born in Salisbury, Conn., April 11, 1790, and died December 18, 1870, aged eighty years.

Children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Wendell as follows: Anna Maria, who married Mr. James M. Moyston, and died February 4, 1865; Margaret, who married Mr. E. Willard Trotter, and died March 13, 1868; Agnes L., who is still living at the Wendell homestead; and Abby, who died January 5, 1880.

Mr. Wendell is remembered by nearly all of the older residents of the city as one of the few who lived beyond the period of the old Schenectady into that of the busy, enterprising Schenectady of to-day. He was an interesting conversationalist, and was rich in historical reminiscences of this section. He was a man of good mental ability, high honor and genial social qualities, and it is to be regretted that he was the last male of his family in direct line.

WARS AND FORTIFICATIONS.

In 1746 Governor Clinton recommended to build a line of block-houses for fortifications west from Fort Massachusetts to the Mohawk Castle at Fort Hunter, which was adopted. One of them was built at Canastagoone (Niskayuna).

[See French and Indian Wars, and Forts and Garrisons for complete account.]

PROVINCIAL INTERPRETER.

Hilitie, the eldest daughter of Cornelis Antonisen, married Peter Danielse Van Olinda, of Niskayuna. She was for many years employed as provincial interpreter with the Indians by the government at \$50 per annum. The Mohawk sachems in 1667 gave her the Great Island in the Mohawk River at Niskayuna. She and her husband sold the island in 1669 to Captain Johannes Clute. The island is now owned and occupied by the Quaker Community of Watervliet. The sachems also gave land at the Willow Flats below Port Jackson, and at the Boght on the Mohawk in Watervliet. She died February 10, 1807, leaving three sons, Daniel, Jacob, and Matthew. The last died unmarried. Daniel, the oldest son, born June 11, 1696, married Lysbeth Kregear, a granddaughter of the old Burgomaster Martinus Gregier. Jacob, the second son, married Eva, daughter of Class De Graff, and left four sons, named Peter, William, Martin, and Nicholas; also one daughter, Helena, who, on the 16th of June, 1723, married Johannes Quackenbos.

THE NISKAYUNA PATENT.

This tract lay to the east and south of the Schenectady patent, and extended from the Ael-Plaats south to the north line of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck.

On the 5th of August, 1738, a patent was obtained for this land by Arent Bradt and Jacob Glen,

in trust for the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Schenectady. It was then estimated to contain 2,500 acres, but owing to an error in measurement, rectified in 1788, fell considerably short of that amount.

[See Church History for account of land grants.]

RIVER FLATS.

It is two centuries and a quarter since this valley was settled. It lies in a beautiful interval on the margin of the Mohawk River, the great highway to the West.

These flats were tilled for generations before 1661 by the Indians, and they still yield rich harvests, in many cases to the descendants of the original white settlers—indeed to some whose ancestors antedated the Dutch regime.

The alluvial deposits of this valley are constantly enriched by the annual floods. This constitutes the widely known Mohawk Flats, which, though cultivated by the white man for more than two hundred years, have lost none of their unsurpassed fertility.

In the early period of the settlement no other land was tilled, hence they were called the land, arable land or bouwland, all else being denominated woodland, and little valued. In addition to their fertility, these flats presented another advantage to the first settlers—they were mainly free from wood and ready for the plough and seed. For ages they had been the native's corn land, whilst the adjacent forests and rivers furnished him with flesh and fish.

The great sand belt which passes across the towns of Rotterdam, Niskayuna, and Glenville, from south to north, was once covered with a heavy growth of pines, while the highlands lying north and west of it produced the usual varieties of hardwood.

Arent Van Curler, in letters written at the time, mentioned the many natural advantages of this section.

That a few fur-traders and bosloopers early roved among the Mohawks, married, and raised families of half-breeds, cannot be denied; indeed there are respectable families in the valley to this day whose pedigree may be traced back to these marriages.

The Ballston Turnpike crosses the Mohawk at Alexander's bridge, built in 1805, four miles below Schenectady, where there is a succession of falls and a low rolling dam across the river. But the mills are things of the past.

The Erie Canal is carried over the Mohawk here into Niskayuna upon a magnificent aqueduct, 748 feet long and 25 feet above the stream, and falls immediately by three locks 21 feet, running through this town westward to Schenectady, a distance of five miles.

The Troy and Schenectady Railroad, built in 1843, runs through this town a distance of ten miles. It is a single-track road, and at present runs four passenger trains a day each way.

Union Street, Schenectady, leading to Niskayuna, was formerly known as Niskayuna Street, and was so named in honor of the old Niskayuna

settlement just outside of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, whose inhabitants were very intimate with those of Schenectady, and many families were related.

College Hill was called Niskayuna Bergh.

The Aqueduct is a railroad station on the Troy and Schenectady Railroad six miles from Schenectady. Across the Mohawk, on the opposite side is the village of Rexford Flats, where the people of this vicinity receive their mail.

Niskayuna is a small hamlet in the southeast corner of the town. It contains the Reformed Church, of eventful memory, a store and post-office, and a hotel kept by William H. Miller, and a few dwellings. There is also a flourishing lodge of Good Templars of eighty members. The lodge holds its meetings in the vestry of the church.

Shaker Island is a half mile east of the Niskayuna post-office, containing eighty acres, owned and occupied by the Shaker families of Watervliet. It is used simply for farming purposes.

Shortly after the revolution, the Albany and Schenectady Turnpike Company built a stone tramway from Albany to Schenectady, to expedite the hauling of goods and for a stage road. This road is much of it still in good repair, and toll is still collected upon it. The road passes about three miles through Niskayuna.

Lishakill Hamlet is situated near the eastern line of this town, so that the people of this part of the town get their mail and attend church at Lishakill. The Second Reformed Church here is in the town of Watervliet, but belongs to the Schenectady Classis.

The following novel marriage is said to have occurred somewhere in this vicinity, and is well worth preservation. About 150 years ago, according to tradition, when clergymen were not as plenty as they now are, a young gentleman and his affianced were anxiously awaiting the happy day which was to see them united in the silken bonds of matrimony. They resided on the north side of the Tomhannock Creek, and the clergyman who had been engaged to tie the knot lived on the south side of the same stream. As the fates would have it, heavy rain fell the night previous to the nuptial day, which rendered the creek impassable. Its waters were rising and its current becoming more rapid every hour. The clergyman arrived at the appointed time at a place where he had been in the habit of fording the creek, but it was as much as his life was worth to attempt to cross it then. He turned his horse's head to return, when he was hailed by two voices on the opposite side of the stream. They were those of the groom and bride, who intreated him to stay. After some debate it was agreed that the ceremony should proceed. In the meantime the friends of the betrothed arrived from the bride's house in the neighborhood. Then was presented a singular spectacle; "the like thereof was never seen before," and probably will not be again. The dominie read the marriage service on the margin of the creek, while the parties stood and responded on the opposite side. After the ceremony was over

the groom tossed a few guilders across the creek, which the dominie picked up and pocketed as his fee, mounted his horse and proceeded homeward, and the married couple did the same.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.—There are in the town of Niskayuna four school districts and as many school-houses, with as many teachers employed. Average cost of school-houses \$600. There are annually taught 298 scholars (besides many that attend the school in the City of Schenectady). The average price paid to teachers is \$7.50 per week. C. W. Van Sanford is the School Commissioner.

TOWN OFFICERS.—Supervisor, Thomas W. Winne; Justice of the Peace, John H. Putnam; Assessor, C. W. Miller; Collector, Henry C. Rankin; Town Clerk, Thomas D. Tree.

COUNTY OFFICERS.—(See Officers.)

REFORMED CHURCH AT NISKAYUNA.

I. ITS ORGANIZATION.

The precise date of organization of the Reformed (Dutch) Church of Niskayuna cannot be determined. It was probably organized by the Classis of Albany, to which it belonged until the organization of the Classis of Schenectady. The first book of minutes of the Classis of Albany being lost by fire, the facts and dates are for the most part lost with it. The regular records of this church begin with 1784. There is a list of baptisms dated 1783. Among loose papers in the archives of the consistory, is a subscription list dated 1773. There must have been records even before this, but they cannot be found. From the fact that the first church building was erected not later than 1760, and that before that there stood on the same spot a "Galat House," or prayer-house, which was used for worship on the Sabbath, and as a school-house during the week, it seems safe enough to date the formal organization of the church at about 1750. In 1784 a Dutch Church was organized at the Boght, and from the relations afterwards sustained with Niskayuna, it was evidently a child of this church. In the year 1803 that part of the congregation lying upon the north side of the Mohawk was organized into the Reformed (Dutch) Church of Amity, it becoming the second child of Niskayuna Church. In 1852 the southern part of the congregation was organized into the Reformed (Dutch) Church of Lishas' Kill, which was the third and last child of this church. Thus has this church become the mother of churches and brought forth a three-fold increase, still remaining strong and healthy in her own home life.

ITS BUILDINGS.

First of all we find the "Galat House," or prayer-house, already mentioned. No record or tradition of the date of its erection can be found. It stood at the foot of the hill in Niskayuna Village, on the old road from Troy to Schenectady. This building gave way to a church, built on the same spot about 1760. This church was a square building, with four-sided roof running up to a point in the middle. It had a gallery on the side opposite the pulpit, and below it had raised benches along the

walls for the men, and benches on the floor in the middle for the women. It stood until 1828, when a new church was erected upon the present site. This new site and building was on the north side of the Troy and Schenectady turnpike, nearly half way between the two cities. The church building was 50 x 65 feet. It was dedicated March 6, 1829, and stood until July, 1852. The present edifice then took its place. It is a neat and substantial brick building, with white bell-tower, and was put up at a cost of a little over \$4,000. There is a pleasant chapel and Sabbath-school-room, the only one ever erected, standing near the church, which was built in 1871. In 1832 there was a parsonage built on the west side of the church, the present site, at a cost of \$626.27. This house stood in constant use until 1873, when the present large and handsome house was erected at a cost of \$2,725 and the material of the old house.

ITS MINISTRY.

During the early period up to 1790, according to an abstract of history deposited in the cornerstone of the present church building, the congregation enjoyed the labors of Rev. Sansom Occum, a Mohican Indian, from Connecticut; "Lorenzo Dow," the eccentric Methodist itinerant; Rev. D. Romeyn, Rev. Mr. Westerlo, Rev. Elias Van Benschoten, and others. This was the time of desolation and suffering and privation caused by the revolution. In 1790, in connection with the church at the Boght, the Rev. John Demarest was called. He served the two congregations until 1803, when he resigned and went to a new charge in New Jersey. This same year the connection of this church and the Boght was dissolved, and the church of Niskayuna was vacant for three years. In the meantime the northern part of the congregation was organized into the Church of Amity; and in 1806 the two congregations, Niskayuna and Amity, united in calling Rev. Thomas Romeyn. He was pastor of the joint charge for twenty-one years, from 1806 to 1827. Up to the beginning of his ministry the service had all been in Dutch. He began preaching alternately in Dutch and English. In 1811 it was voted unanimously that the proportion should be three of English to one of Dutch. In 1816 it was again unanimously decided to have all English preaching.

In the same year of Mr. Romeyn's removal, 1827, the two congregations of Niskayuna and Amity again united in calling Rev. John McKelvey, a young graduate of the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick. He left after a three years' pastorate. In the next year, 1831, the churches, still united, called Rev. John Van Wagnen. During his pastorate, in 1834, the partnership with the church of Amity was dissolved, and he remained for one year pastor of Niskayuna alone. In 1835 he resigned, going to another charge in Linlithgo, N. Y. In 1836, the church of Niskayuna alone called Rev. Henry A. Raymond. He had a long, prosperous and acceptable ministry of nearly fifteen years. He resigned in 1850, and moved to the church of Owasco, N. Y. In 1851

the church called Rev. Goyn Talmage. His ministry was short, but full of lasting work. He peacefully divided the unwieldy congregation into two, and instead of the one old wooden church, he left two of brick, each in its appropriate place and fit to serve succeeding generations, all paid for. In 1855 he resigned, and went to Greenpoint, N. Y. The two churches, Niskayuna and Lishas' Kill, then united in calling Rev. Cornelius L. Wells, who remained with them two and one-half years, when he was called to the Third Reformed Church of Jersey City. In October of the same year, 1858, the two churches called the Rev. John A. De Baun, D. D., who remained their faithful and honored and loved pastor for nearly twenty-five years, until April, 1883, when he was called to Fonda, N. Y., and resigned. In October, 1883, the partnership between the two churches was dissolved, and Niskayuna congregation called the present pastor, Rev. C. P. Ditmars.

ITS GROWTH AND PRESENT STATUS.

During all these years the increase of the church and community must of course have been great, else from the mother church so many children could not have been separated. When Rev. John Demarest came in 1790 he found 74 members. During all those years, from that date until now, there must have been received into the church here at least 1,000 members.

The present statistics are as follows: families, 120; members in full communion, 223; baptized non-communicant members, 110. Raised this year for congregational purposes about \$1,400; for benevolence about \$300.

The present consistory is as follows: Rev. C. P. Ditmars, President; Cornelius Van Vranken, Fletcher Onderdonk, Garret I. Van Vranken, Abram L. Vedder, Elders; W. H. H. Freleigh, Wendall Milbanks, Benjamin H. Lansing, Wesley Miller, Deacons.

There is a Sabbath-school connected with the church, of about fifteen teachers and one hundred and fifty scholars. Its Superintendent is Mr. G. W. Freleigh; Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Jacob V. Pearse; Treasurer, Mr. John V. Green.

There is also a cemetery adjoining the church property, and belonging to it. It consists of three acres, pleasantly situated upon the hillside and top, and is kept in good condition, being under the care of the sexton of the church. It may be noted there is a residence for the sexton in one corner of the church grounds, in which he lives, and there are large and commodious horse-sheds, giving shelter for more than fifty teams.

SOME OF THE PROMINENT RESIDENTS AT THE PRESENT TIME.

C. O. Hamlin, farmer, ex-Supervisor, four miles from Schenectady, on Albany turnpike; Thomas W. Hinne, farmer and Supervisor, on the Troy road, six miles from Schenectady; Thomas D. Tree, Town Clerk, four miles east of Schenectady; G. G. Maxon & Son, Aqueduct road, three miles from Schenectady; Cornelius & Aaron Van Vranken and other Van Vrankens, farmers, east of the

Troy road, from five to seven miles from Schenectady. The Van Vrankens are numerous, fifteen of them in one part of this town, farmers. Their residences are known as the Van Vranken neighborhood. Among them are: J. D. Van Vranken, Freleigh Van Vranken, and Mrs. A. M. Van Vranken, all farmers. The Vedders are also a numerous family. There are eight families of them, farmers. Lewis Brewer, farmer and philanthropist, Troy road, two miles from Schenectady; Clark V. Warden, farmer and ex-Sheriff, near Senator Stanford's place; Charles W. Whitbeck, farmer, near Rexford Flats; Garret I. Whitbeck, on turnpike, four miles from city; P. E. Whitbeck, on turnpike, four miles from city; C. Reynolds, farmer, Troy road, six miles from Schenectady; George Reynolds, farmer, Troy road, six miles from Schenectady; John Van Antwerp, farmer, four miles northeast from city; William Craig, farmer, on the top of the bluff south of the Aqueduct on the old Craig Place; Jeff. Thompson, farmer, on the old Vedder Place, one mile south of the Aqueduct; Ezra, Casper and Martin Ham are farmers, three and a half miles east of Schenectady; Conrad, Jacob, Thomas and Frank Mesick are farmers, about five miles east of Schenectady; John McShea, Attorney of Niskayuna Village, ex-County Clerk and Justice of the Peace; Henry Lansing is an old and respected settler, and lives west of Lishas' Kill; J. V. Clute, farmer, on Troy and Schenectady turnpike; Matthew Winne, Postmaster, Niskayuna Village.

Ex-Senator CHARLES STANFORD is a native of Watervliet, Albany County. His father, Josiah Stanford, was a native of New England; he was a man of sterling character and of unusual business ability, and gained a competency by his business successes. He died in 1862. His son inherited the ambition of his father, and after receiving a good practical education, he at once entered upon a life of enterprise. In 1850 he went to California, and there, with three others, opened the largest commercial house in California at that time. In 1859, in connection with two of his brothers, he established a large commercial house in Melbourne, Australia, and soon after branches in Sydney and New Zealand. One of his brothers, the Hon. Leland Stanford, was elected Governor of the State of California in 1861. He is the President of the Central Pacific Railroad.

In 1854 the interests of his firm required that one of its members should reside near New York City, and in 1861 he took up his residence in Schenectady County, purchased a large farm in the town of Niskayuna, where he has since resided. In 1863 he was elected member of Assembly, and re-elected in 1864; in 1865 was elected Senator of the Fourteenth District. During this campaign he established the *Schenectady Daily Union*. Mr. Stanford is now in feeble health and confined to his home. Much of the enterprise in Schenectady owes its existence to him.

G. G. MAXON, President of the Mohawk National Bank has a fine summer residence on the Aqueduct road, about two and a half miles from the City of



Francis McCann

Schenectady. The house is surrounded with an attractive park, containing some beautiful statuary. There are two beautiful figures, one representing Spring and the other Summer.

There is a farm connected with this residence of 127 acres, the whole costing \$40,000. He has also another farm, a little to the south of this, of 150 acres, valued at \$20,000.

FRANCIS McCANN.

FRANCIS McCANN was born in County Dublin, Ireland, January 15, 1813. In 1833 he came to America, and located in Niskayuna, where he has since lived. In 1837 he bought the old Vedder Farm on the Troy road, and he has since bought several other properties in Watervleit, Albany County, and in the city of Schenectady. His property comprises about 300 acres, and some valuable city lots and residences.

Mr. McCann is a Democrat and has long been a staunch adherent to the leading principles of his party. As a citizen he commands the respect of all who know him and the confidence of all his

fellow-townsmen. He has held the offices of Commissioner of Highways and Overseer of the Poor, and at this time is an Excise Commissioner. He is a member of St. John's Catholic Church of Schenectady.

In March, 1837, Mr. McCann married Maria Bradt, of Niskayuna, who died December 15, 1879. He has since made his home with his stepson, William V. Bradt, who occupies his house on the Troy road. Now in his seventy-third year, hale and robust, he is quietly passing the closing years of his life, doing a little farm work now and then for exercise and as a reminder of his more active years.

WILLIAM STEERS owns a fine farm of 150 acres, opposite Senator Charles Stanford's place. Mr. Steers has lived here for the last twenty-five years, and has filled some of the principal town offices. He and his brother established the express between Albany and Schenectady. They continued it for eighteen years, and then sold it to other parties. It has continued to the present, and is now owned by Pease & Waterman.

A. V. P. LANSING (lately deceased), commonly known as "Uncle Lansing," was an old settler and the father of a large and respectable family, living near Lishas' Kill. Rev. Dr. John Lansing, of Brooklyn (lately deceased), was a son of Uncle Lansing.

We take pleasure in making mention of the following well-known citizens, who, by their guaranteed support, have helped to insure the publication of this valuable work: I. V. Clute, Francis McCann, J. H. Putnam, J. D. Van Vranken, A. M. Van Vranken, Freleigh Van Vranken, William Vedder, Matthew Winne.

HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETOWN.

By Rev. E. E. TAYLOR.

PRINCETOWN was formed March 20, 1798, from a portion of the patent of Schenectady, which had been ceded to the Reformed Dutch Church of that city, and from lands originally patented to George Ingoldsby and Aaron Bradt in 1737. This was subsequently sold to William Corry, who formed a settlement there which was long known as Corry's bush, and Corry sold his interest to John Duncan. The town itself was named after John Prince, of Schenectady, who was then in the Assembly as a member from Albany County, and resided at Schenectady.

JOHN DUNCAN was a Scotchman, of Schenectady, and about 1760 purchased nearly all the present town of Princetown (then called Corry's bush), and titles to lands there are now held under grants from himself or his sons.

JAMES BRADSHAW, the father of Samuel Bradshaw, and the grandfather of Walter Bradshaw, was only one or two years old at this time, and at that age was brought by his father and mother to Princetown, where they settled upon the farm which has ever since been in the possession of the family. James Bradshaw died August 29, 1858, aged eighty-three years five months and thirteen days. James Bradshaw, Sr., and his wife, Elizabeth Bullock, were married in England, and had two children before they sailed for this country. James Bradshaw, Jr., above referred to, was the third child. There were ten children in all, three daughters and seven sons. From these sons must come the other branches of the Bradshaw family settled throughout Princetown. These are nearly all the principal names connected with the early history of this town. About the time of the revolutionary war and previous thereto, is found in connection with the history of the New Scotland Church the following names, familiar now in Princetown, Allen, Hunter and Van Valkenburgh.

The streams are Norman's Kill, in the south, Platt's Kill in the center, and Zantzee Kill in the northwest. Upon this stream, on the farm of Ebenezer Dougall, is a cascade sixty feet high, and from this point to the Mohawk are numerous falls or cascades. The soil is best adapted to grazing, and hay and grain are the principal products.

Its surface consists of a broken upland, gently descending toward the southeast, with a stiff argillaceous mold resting on a compact of ponderous hard-pan, with ledges of limestone, calcareous and siliceous sandstone argillite.

The town contains 15,450 acres; is mainly an oblong square, ten and a half miles long north and south, and two and a half miles wide. It is seven miles southwest of Schenectady, and sixteen miles from Albany by the Cherry Valley turnpike that runs through the town. It lies between the towns of Duaneburgh on the south and Rotterdam on the north. The town is a little west from the center of the county.

Princetown Academy, a Presbyterian institution, was opened here on an extensive scale in 1853 (an enterprise begun under the pastorate of the Rev. David Tully, D. D.) and was discontinued in 1856 on account of financial embarrassments and dissensions arising from the same.

Princetown Hamlet is a small borough containing a post-office, a store, a blacksmith shop, the First Presbyterian Church and burying ground, and a few scattered houses.

Kelley's Station is a small hamlet in the southeast corner of the town, eight miles south from Schenectady and three miles east from Duaneburgh Four Corners, consisting of a railroad station of the Schenectady and Quaker Street branch of the Delaware and Hudson road, a store and post-office kept by Andrew Kelley, a blacksmith shop, two or three dwellings, and a Union cheese factory in operation.

Gifford's is a small hamlet, situate on the Cherry Valley turnpike about three miles northwest of Kelley's Station, containing a hotel, kept by J. Gifford, a store, blacksmith shop, Reformed Church and parsonage, and a few dwellings.

Rynex Corners is a small hamlet on line of the town of Rotterdam and Princetown, eight miles west of Schenectady on the Fort Hunter road, consisting of a store and post-office kept by William H. Mudge, hotel by James W. Gregg, a Union cheese factory, not now in operation, a blacksmith shop and six dwellings. Religious services were held in the upper room of the cheese factory once in two weeks in 1884, where a large

congregation were gathered in the summer of 1884 by Rev. E. E. Taylor, of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.—There are in the town of Princetown seven school districts and seven school-houses, and as many teachers employed. The average cost of school-houses is \$600. There are annually taught 273 scholars, besides many that attend the schools in the City of Schenectady. The average price paid to teachers is \$6.50 per week. C. W. Van Sanford is the School Commissioner.

TOWN OFFICERS.—Supervisor, James Weast; Justices of the Peace, Lawrence Dougall, A. G. Davis, I. A. Rynex; Assessor, J. A. Laws; Collector, James J. Weast; Town Clerk, G. P. Templer.

COUNTY OFFICERS.—(See Officers.)

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH.

The history of this organization begins with the year 1818, in which year Dr. Nott, President of Union College, held occasional services in the school-house on the State road. At this time there were but two persons in the whole community who professed to be Christians—Joseph Phillips and his wife, who were members of the Presbyterian Church of Schenectady.

Professor Macauley and Professor Yates, of Union College, also occasionally preached. Services were held every two or three weeks, on the Sabbath afternoon or evening. This continued until Jeremiah Searl came and labored as a missionary. He remained for a few months, and was then called to the church at Rotterdam. Mr. Searl was succeeded by Rev. Whyting, who remained about six months. The school-house had now become too small to accommodate those who wished to hear the Word of God explained, and it was determined to build a church, and on July 8, 1821, an association was formed and the following elders and deacons were chosen: Elders, George Passage, Philip G. Vought, George G. Passage and Henry R. Furbeck; Deacons, James Phillips and Henry Dutcher.

In the spring of 1822 the church building was commenced, and completed the same year at a cost of about twelve hundred dollars. For two years after the completion of the church the pulpit was supplied by different ministers, of whom are mentioned in the records, Rev. Dr. Yates, of Schenectady, and Rev. Mr. Halliday, of Duanesburgh.

On the twenty-eighth day of December, 1824, James B. Hardenburgh was ordained to the pastoral charge of the united congregations of Helderburgh and Princetown, and served six months. Robert J. Blair was next called, November 1, 1825, to serve these churches, and was ordained and installed January 25, 1826. He remained here until August, 1827, when, upon the 25th day of the same month, at a meeting of the consistory, it joined with him in an application to the Classis to dissolve the pastoral connection, and to apply to have the connection between the churches of Helderburgh and Princetown severed, both of which applications were granted.

From 1827 to 1830 the church of Princetown did not have the regular services of a pastor. In 1830 Rev. Peter Stryker preached three months, after which there is no record of any stated supply until 1833, when Lewis R. Lockwood was called, who continued as pastor about one year. During Mr. Lockwood's ministry, steps were taken to secure a parsonage. One acre and three-quarters of land were purchased, without any restrictions, of Alex. Gifford, for the sum of one hundred dollars, one-half paid on the delivery of the deed and the balance the following spring. In 1834 Rev. John Nott took charge of the church as stated supply. This year the church was repaired and the society assumed the name of the First Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Princetown. Mr. Nott preached most of the time from 1834 to 1838. In 1838, Rev. Wilson Ingals, tutor in Union College, supplied the pulpit. During the years 1839 to 1841, Rev. John Vandervoghe, who resided within the bounds of the congregation, was stated supply. January, 1842, Rev. W. P. Davis was called, who remained until October, 1847. Mr. Davis was followed by Rev. Joseph Rosekrans, who remained until 1851, and was followed by Rev. N. Bogardus, who remained about eighteen months. After Mr. Bogardus left, until 1855, Rev. John Nott served them most of the time. In 1855 Rev. D. D. Hall preached as stated supply until 1863. In the spring of 1864 Rev. J. H. Rickett was engaged as pastor, and remained a little over a year. In October, 1865, Rev. I. B. Hall began his labors the second time, and continued as pastor until the spring of 1869. During the year of 1871 H. A. Raymond preached, and was the last who occupied the pulpit in the old church. The 1st of July, 1873, the present pastor, Rev. J. Kelley Rhinehart, began his labors, being the settled pastor, although many others have served the church at different times. There have been three special revivals—the first during the ministry of the Rev. W. P. Davis; the second during the ministry of Rev. D. B. Hall, who was assisted by Rev. James B. Campbell; and the third under the labors of the present pastor in 1876. As the result of this last revival, seventy persons were added to the church; and again in 1880, when twenty-six more were added to the church.

The present membership is 243. Henry Smith, Isaac Scrafford, William Blessing and William Young, Deacons; Adam M. Blessing, John Young, James T. Wemple and J. Quackenbush, Elders.

In 1869 the people began to manifest greater activity and zeal, and sheds were built at a cost of \$952.64. This is in excess of much done by the people. Next the parsonage was remodeled and repaired at an expense of \$1,500. Then a new church was built at a cost of \$8,114.12. Through the efforts of the ladies the church was furnished; the amount raised by them was \$700. The church is now free from debt. The present successful pastor, Rev. J. K. Rhinehart, has been with this people nearly twelve years.

Previous to 1873, Sabbath-schools were held in the several school districts; since then a congrega-

tional school has been held in the church, with most gratifying results. Number of scholars, 130; teachers, 20; total, 150. Superintendent, John T. Blessing.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The First Presbyterian Church of Princetown, Schenectady Co., N. Y., was organized under the authority of the Presbytery of New York more than one hundred years ago; afterwards it came within the bounds of the Presbytery of Dutchess, which was formed from the New York Presbytery, and finally was one of the few churches which in 1790 constituted the Presbytery of Albany. In 1790 the Presbytery of Albany was established by order of the Synod of New York and New Jersey. The Presbytery of Albany held its first meeting at Albany on the 9th of November, 1790.

In a history of the Schenectady patents by Prof. Pearson, is the following paragraph: "The first minister who is known to have preached to the congregation (First Presbyterian Church, Schenectady) statedly, is the Rev. Alexander Miller." Mr. Miller was a pupil of Rev. James Findley, a graduate of Princetown College in 1764; a student of theology under Dr. Rogers, of New York; was licensed 1767, and ordained by the Presbytery of New York, 1770, which is the date of his settlement here. Mr. Kelley (an elder at that time) states that Mr. Miller left in 1781, during the summer. Mr. Miller also preached at Currie's Bush (Princetown) in connection with his charge here.

The Currie's Bush Church in which Mr. Miller preached, was the original First Presbyterian Log Church of Princetown. At that time the building was a log church located on what is known as the old Boyd farm, the ground on which the church stood being now owned by Jonathan Templer. It was a two-acre lot, not far from the old hickory tree which stands nearly on the line between Messrs. Bradshaw and Templer, and east of the present entrance to the Walter Bradshaw farm, the church lot joining Mr. Bradshaw's east line at this place. For a long time after the old log church had disappeared, the lot lay open to commons; it has since been fenced and become a part of the Templer farm. So far as can be ascertained, this log church was built about 1770, the date of Mr. Miller's settlement at Schenectady; and the church took its name, Currie's Bush Church, from the settlement in which it was located. In this log church Mr. Miller preached a stated supply, in connection with his Schenectady charge, between the years 1770 and 1781.

Mr. Miller was followed at Schenectady by Rev. John Young in the year 1787, who was ordained June 14, 1788. The records of the Presbytery show that the Currie's Bush Church united with the Schenectady Church in the call for the services of Mr. Young, and that he was duly installed over them both. He gave one-third of his time to Currie's Bush (or Princetown) and was the second minister of the Princetown Church. Mr. Young requested a dissolution of the pastoral relation at the meeting of the Presbytery, November 10, 1790,

on the ground of non-payment of salary (by the Schenectady Church) and of ill-health. The church had not yet settled its indebtedness to Mr. Miller, who was still seeking payment, and the church at Currie's Bush applied to the Presbytery for two-thirds of Mr. Young's time, on the ground that the church in Schenectady was no longer able to support him.

Mr. Young's pastoral relation was dissolved December 9, 1790, but the impression obtains, from the records of the Presbytery, that he continued to supply Currie's Bush Church after that time, and a subsequent call was made by that and the New Scotland Church for his services, he to preach two-thirds of his time at Currie's Bush and one-third at New Scotland, and the churches each to pay accordingly. But Mr. Young was dismissed from Albany Presbytery to the Presbytery of Montreal, Canada, June 25, 1793.

In the resolution of the Synod of New York, constituting the Presbytery of Albany, in connection with the names of other ministers and churches, about half a dozen in number, it is stated, "John Young, of Schenectady and Currie's Bush, members of the Presbytery of New York, be set off as a distinct Presbytery, by the name and title of the Presbytery of Albany." So that the Currie's Bush Church was the first church set off to constitute the Presbytery of Albany. Mr. John Young was elected the first clerk of the Albany Presbytery. At a meeting of the Presbytery December 9, 1790, when Mr. Young requested the dissolution of the pastoral relation, it is recorded that the Commissioners appeared from both the churches—Schenectady and Currie's Bush—and the dissolution being effected, Currie's Bush requested of the Presbytery supplies, and Mr. Young was appointed as such supply until the next meeting of the Presbytery.

Mr. John Crawford was the Elder from the Currie's Bush Church at the first meeting of the Albany Presbytery, November 9, 1790; Mr. Samuel McKee at the meeting of Presbytery December 8, 1790, and Mr. Walter Maxwell, March 1, 1791.

The following Elders represented the Currie's Bush Church at the meeting of the Presbytery held on the dates set opposite their respective names: Samuel McKee, January 10, 1792; Walter Maxwell, March 6, 1792; John Crawford, September 4, 1792. These, then, were the three Elders of the Currie's Bush Church at that time, but their names do not appear on the records of the Albany Presbytery after that time. They evidently about that time united with the Presbytery of New York of the Associate Reformed Synod (or United Presbyterian Church), and secured the services of the Rev. James Mairs for a part of his time.

Previous to this arrangement with Mr. Mairs, and between July, 1792, and July, 1793, the Albany Presbytery furnished the following supplies to the Currie's Bush Church: Rev. Methuselah Baldwin, Rev. Simeon Hosack, Rev. Messrs. McDonald, Schenck, Lindsey, Sturgis and Judd.

Rev. James Mairs, who also preached at Galway, Charlton and Florida, continued from Feb-

ruary 19, 1794, to May 6, 1795, when the arrangement proving unsatisfactory to all concerned, it was discontinued.

Then came Rev. James McKenney, who preached principally in the Currie's Bush Church, and may have taken Galway as a part of his charge. Mr. McKenney's object was the establishment of a reformed Presbyterian Church, and for this he worked. The result was a division, out of which came an offshoot of the Currie's Bush Church, in the shape of the Duanesburgh Presbyterian Church.

This division occurred in 1800, and the new Duanesburgh enterprise flourished for a time, while the Currie's Bush (Princetown) Church declined and struggled hard for life. But on February 19, 1805, the Duanesburgh Church applied to the Albany Presbytery and was taken under its care, and united with Princetown in securing the services of Rev. William Boardman, who was ordained and installed over these churches February 28, 1805, and continued in charge of the same until February 21, 1809.

At the next meeting, held February 21, 1806, the pastoral relation between Mr. Boardman and the Princetown Church was dissolved. Mr. John Robinson was the Elder from the Church at this meeting of the Presbytery, and consented to the dissolution upon the ground that the membership was so small they could not continue to meet the necessary expenses. On March 29, 1809, the pastoral relation between Mr. Boardman and the Duanesburgh Church was dissolved for the same reason. Rev. John J. Christie supplied the Princetown Church for a part of the year 1809, and also Rev. Kirby. Mr. James McMillan, of the Duanesburgh Church, appearing as the Elder from Princetown, at Presbytery, February 16, 1813, indicates the absorption of this church by that at Princetown.

Rev. Thomas Holiday, pastor of New Scotland Church, supplied the Princetown Church from 1813 to 1829, in connection with his New Scotland charge.

After Mr. Holiday came Rev. Thomas Fraser, who supplied the church from June 10, 1829, to May 18, 1834; Rev. William Hamilton from October 10, 1835, to June 2, 1838; Rev. James Finley from January, 1839, to June, 1843; Rev. Jeremiah Boice Coney from the fall of 1843, to May 16, 1848, when he died. He is buried in the graveyard, on the north of the present church, and the congregation erected a monument to his memory, upon which is inscribed: "In memory of the Rev. J. Boice Coney, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Princetown, who died May 16, 1848, in the fifth year of his pastorate of this church and the seventh of his ministry, and the thirty-eighth of his age."

Rev. David Tully was the pastor from June, 12, 1850, to September 20, 1855; Rev. George W. McMillen from November 17, 1857, to January, 1863; Rev. George Harkness from September 17, 1865, to June 15, 1869. Under Mr. Harkness the tokens at communion seasons were abolished.

Rev. Robert A. Hill from November 12, 1870, to June 14, 1882. During the pastorate of Mr.

Hill the organ and the Presbyterian Hymnal took the place of the "Old Version of the Psalms," and the "rotary eldership" mode was introduced and other measures of reform instituted. Of course at the time there was some opposition to these innovations, but in most cases time and familiarity with these new customs have made them unobjectionable, and the church has been strengthened and prospered thereby.

After Mr. Hill came Rev. Clarence W. Backus as stated supply, from April 29, 1883, to July 14, 1884, at which time he accepted a call to Victor, N. Y. During the different periods when the church has been vacant, besides those already named, the following ministers have acted as supplies: Rev. Dr. Eliphalet Nott, President of Union College; Rev. Dr. Robert Proudfit, Professor at Union College; Rev. Dr. J. Trumbull Backus, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Schenectady, until recently; Rev. Mr. Newcomb, about one year, 1863; Rev. John Clancy, about one year, 1856; Rev. David Lyon, Rev. David G. Bullions, Rev. William J. Blain, Rev. Jeremiah Wood, of Mayfield.

During the last year the church has been materially strengthened, as will be seen in the following report to the presbytery at its last meeting.

"A new record book and a new register have been purchased, the former being Vol. IV. The roll of church members has been revised, rules for the election of elders have been enacted, and a confession and covenant of this church adopted which is to be publicly assented to by persons joining the church on confession of their faith. A cornet has been introduced as aid to the musical part of the worship."

This church stands out by itself among the Princetown hills, without any village surroundings. Owing to its high elevation; the hilly character of its roads and their liability to become impassable at certain seasons of the year owing to snow-drifts and mud; the distance from the church of many of their homes; and at times the inclemency of the weather, there is of necessity some irregularity in the attendance upon religious services—notwithstanding which, during the past year, the regular Sabbath morning service has been uninterruptedly observed. Twenty-six persons have been added to the church upon confession of faith.

The Sabbath-school membership has increased during the past year from 80 to 230. The Catechism is taught in the school.

The Elders who have served this church since 1820 are: John Young from 1800 to 1822; James McMillan, 1812, to August 11, 1836; Jas. Ferguson, 1820, to October 2, 1851; William Gordon, Jr., 1820 to 1858; John Robinson, 1820, to March 24, 1833; Jonathan I. Clayton, 1812 to 1837; James Cantley, May 20, 1821, to October 2, 1824; James McMillan, October 16, 1836, to January 26, 1884; William Gifford, October 16, 1836, to August 3, 1863; Samuel McMillan, October 16, 1836, to October, 1862; James McNee, October 16, 1863, to January 7, 1875; James Weast, January 4, 1852, to February 4, 1873; William S.

Kelley, January 4, 1852, to September 20, 1855; John Conning, January 4, 1855, to January 20, 1877; James Wingate, January 4, 1852, to January 14, 1869; Samuel J. McMillan, September 14, 1866, and took letter; Daniel M. Rogers, September 14, 1866, to February, 1874.

The present Elders are: James Turnbull, elected September 14, 1866; Samuel A. Weast, elected September 14, 1866; Hugh H. McMillan, elected June 8, 1876; Walter Bradshaw, elected June 8, 1876.

John A. Bradshaw, organist; Frank Bradshaw, cornet.

The stone church was built about 1790. The present church was built 1820. Since then it has been enlarged once. The parsonage and church are at the present time in good repair. There is a burying ground connected with and adjoining the church. The present pastor is the Rev. John J. Henning, from Argyle, Washington County, N. Y., who was duly ordained and installed January 20, 1885. The Rev. T. G. Darling, D. D., of Schenectady, preached the opening discourse, the Rev. Mr. Henning, father of the new pastor, delivered the charge to the pastor, and the Rev. Mr. Johnson, of Mariaville, gave the charge to the congregation. All seems pleasant and promising now to this congregation.

SOME OF THE PROMINENT RESIDENTS OF PRINCETOWN.

Andrew Kelley, store and post-office, Kelley's Station; Duncan Ferguson, one mile southwest of Kelley's Station, farmer; Richard Hunter, near Kelley's Station, farmer; Frederick Springer, one mile north of Kelley's Station, farmer; John Martin, one mile north of Kelley's Station, farmer; Thomas Wingate, one and a half miles north of Kelley's Station, farmer; Solomon Kelley, one mile north of Kelley's Station, farmer; Alexander Gifford, hotel, Gifford's Post-office; Thomas Passage, two miles northwest of Gifford's Post-office, farmer; William Scrafford, near Gifford's Post-office, farmer; Archibald Cullings, one and a half miles north of Gifford's Post-office, farmer; James Gregg, Rynex Corners, farmer; Andrew Gregg, near Rynex Corners, farmer; Calvin Robison, near Rynex Corners, farmer; Romaine Robison, near Rynex Corners, farmer and Supervisor; Thomas Ennis, near Rynex Corners, farmer; James Rynex, near Rynex Corners, farmer and Justice of the Peace; John W. Weast, one and a half miles west of Rynex Corners, farmer and Supervisor; David Houghton, two miles north of Rynex Corners, farmer; Walter Bradshaw, two miles west of Rynex Corners, farmer; Frederick Bradshaw, two miles west of Rynex Corners, farmer; Jonathan Templer, one mile west of Rynex Corners, farmer; Andrew McMillin, two miles west of South Schenectady, farmer; Robert Van Valkenburgh, south of South Schenectady, farmer; Samuel A. Weast, one mile west of South Schenectady, farmer; Alex. Donnan, northwest part of town, farmer; Alex. Clogston, one mile west of Princetown Church; William Lauder, near Mariaville, farmer; John A. Marlette, west part of town, farmer; James Smealie,

northwest part of town, farmer; William Staley, northwest part of town, farmer; Archibald Tinning, west part of town, farmer; John Walker, west part of town, farmer; Daniel Darron, south part of town, farmer; John C. Flansburgh, near Princetown Church, farmer; Charles Ostrander, near Rynex Corners, farmer.

DUNCAN FERGUSON represents one of the first families of his town. From old documents in his possession, it appears that his grandfather, John Ferguson, purchased the homestead in 1775 of Richard and George Duncan, once proprietors of the town. This property is located about half a mile southwest of Kelley's Station. The price then paid was ten shillings per acre. He was a native Scotchman, came from Perthshire, and built his first log-cabin on the spot now occupied by the family cemetery. He emigrated about 1773 or 1774. He brought with him his wife and daughter, Jane. James, John, Alexander and Duncan were born in Princetown. John died when young; James located adjoining his father, and there lived until his death, when he was seventy-two years of age; Alexander succeeded to the ownership of the homestead, and died at seventy-five years of age; Duncan married Hannah, daughter of Thomas Gifford, one of the original settlers of South Princetown, who located on the place of Duncan Ferguson's present home, and raised a family of eight children, of whom Duncan is the oldest. He was first married to Ann E., daughter of John Bryant, of Fultonville, N. Y. She died in 1874, and Minnie Turnbull, of Rotterdam, became his second wife, and she died in the spring of 1881, leaving one daughter, Leah. The family cemetery before mentioned was furnished by the ancestors, and is one of the best private cemeteries in the country.

JAMES FERGUSON, of Duanesburgh, was son of Captain James Ferguson, who was a son of James, the son of the original Duncan Ferguson. The subject was born in Duanesburgh, June 26, 1848. Captain John Ferguson was twice married, first to Mrs. Eveline Curry, who died leaving three children, Mary, Helen and Martha, who are all married and living in the West. For a second wife he married Arvilla Northrup, of the town of Berne, Albany County. Her children were nine in number, James, the subject of this sketch, being the third. He married, December 24, 1874, Miss Helen E., daughter of Elisha Hungerford, of Colesville, N. Y., and they have two sons, Samuel and John. Charles, the first-born, died in 1883, at six years of age.

ANDREW SMEALLIE is one of the representative farmers of Princetown. He was born in that town January 9, 1814. His father, James Smealie, was a native of Scotland, born April 18, 1786; emigrated to America 1811. His mother, two brothers, John and Andrew, and a sister, Agnes, followed in 1816. He married Mary, daughter of John Smealie, October 1, 1812. Andrew is the oldest of their children. Others are: John, born March 3, 1816; William, May 1, 1818; James M., June

12, 1820; Robert, April 21, 1822; Peter C., June 5, 1824, and died August 21, 1827; Jane, born December 22, 1826. Andrew married Ann E., daughter of Abram Dorn, one of the first settlers of the town, August 21, 1851, and they have had one son, Abram D., born January 21, 1853, who died in Texas April 5, 1884.

JOHN MARLETTE is a prominent and successful farmer. He was born in Schoharie, N. Y., September 2, 1802. His father, Giles Marlette, a native of Montgomery County, was son of John Marlette, a Frenchman by birth and a major in the the revolutionary army under General La Fayette. Giles was the youngest but one of six children, and married Rachel, daughter of Garret Newkirk, of Montgomery County. Of their nine children, John Marlette is the oldest. He came to Rotterdam April 21, 1821, and worked for one Pulman in a public house where now is the village of Pattersonville. He was married in 1824 to Miss Nancy McMaster and located on his present home that same year. Rachael (Mrs. L. M. Clements, of Schenectady); John A. and William, farmers of Princetown; and T. Luther, of the mercantile firm of Marlette & Clements, of Pattersonville, are his living children. Maria, William and Giles are deceased. T. Luther, the popular merchant at Pattersonville, married Miss Eveline, daughter of Seely and Adeline (Montgomery) Patterson, August 12, 1869, and have one son, Seely.

JOSEPH TINNING, who owns and occupies one of the first located and finest farms in Princetown, is a native of the town of Glen, Montgomery County, and is a son of James and Hannah (Bradt) Tinning. He was born June 18, 1833. He married Ann, daughter of William A. Milmine, of Florida, Montgomery County. She died June 5, 1859, and he was again married to Miss Mary, daughter of Thomas Coulter, of Duaneburgh, by whom he has three sons and three daughters, Bertha, Archibald, Mary, Elizabeth, Louis, and William. His father, James Tinning, was a native of Scotland, and emigrated to America from Dumfries County in 1821. He married his wife in the town of Glen. He died March 27, 1868.

GEORGE J. HOLTON is one of the enterprising young farmers of Princetown, and at present the only one of his family in the town. He was born October 27, 1855. His father, George Holton, who died June 5, 1862, married Miss Margaret J., daughter of Nicholas Peek, who was one of the first Dutch settlers of the Mohawk Valley. George Holton had five children: George J., Sarah L., Hannah, Thomas S. (deceased), and William J. After Mr. Holton's death, Mrs. Holton married Thomas Shipley, by whom she had one daughter, Cora, born March 2, 1881. George J. Holton married Miss Emma J., daughter of Winslow Sterling, of Princetown. She was born February 13, 1860. They have a daughter, Florence, born July 5, 1882, and a son, Melvin, born May 20, 1884.

DANIEL TAWS located in Princetown during the days of its very early settlement. He came from Scotland to America some years previous to the

opening of the revolution, and was a soldier of that war. Of his six sons James was the oldest, and married Jane Mulroy, and settled on the homestead and had two sons, John (deceased) and David, who now occupies the homestead. They had also two daughters, Janet (deceased) and Sarah. The estate now comprises 244 acres.

DAVID ELDER lives in the neighborhood of the Scotch Church, and is a native of Scotland. His father, William Elder, came from Kinrosshire, Scotland, in 1827, bringing with him a family of five sons, leaving a married daughter in Scotland. He located in the town of Florida, Montgomery County. His sons in due course of time entered business life, John as a merchant in New York City and later went to California; Robert became a civil engineer and was employed by the United States Government in the Western States; David developed into a first-class school teacher, following the profession in Montgomery and Schenectady Counties. He served as School Commissioner of the latter county three years, 1883-85. He married March 15, 1848, Miss Janet, daughter of Thomas Dougall, by whom he had four children: Margaret, now Mrs. W. W. Barlay, of Des Moines, Iowa; John A.; Thomas D.; and William J. James Elder, the youngest brother of David, taught school about twenty years in Montgomery County, and is now a farmer in Minnesota.

DANIEL DONNAN was a Scotchman. He emigrated to America in 1803. Was born in 1776. He married in Princetown, Mary, daughter of John McKerlie, also a Scotchman by birth, who emigrated in 1774 and reached Princetown in 1775, and purchased of George Wasson the farm in the west part of the town now owned and occupied by William Donnan, a grandson. The estate then comprised one hundred and fifty acres; the improvements consisted of a small log house and barn, and a small clearing. During the revolutionary war he was an active member of the Home Guards. He had six sons and four daughters: David married Mary McKerlie in 1805. They had seven sons and one daughter; John was born October 15, 1806, and died 1882; James lives in Amsterdam; Andrew is in Livingston County, N. Y.; Alexander, Samuel and William are in Princetown; and David is in Pennsylvania. William married Catherine, daughter of James Tinning, of Florida, Montgomery County, and has one daughter, Mary, living, and Martha and Owen are deceased. He lives on the old homestead. Alexander located adjoining the homestead; married June 7, 1844, to Miss Jane, daughter of William and Nancy (McKey) Conning. Has had six children: David A. (deceased), William, George, Essie and Nathan W. David is at Independence, Iowa; John A. is a farmer in Princetown; and William, assistant cashier in a banking institution at Leroy, N. Y. Samuel's place also joins the old homestead. He was married November 7, 1884, to Miss Helen, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Dougall (deceased). They were among the first settlers of Princetown. Their children are William J., a farmer of Duane-

burgh, Margaret A., Edwin C., Rensselaer and Mary N. Mrs. Donnan died July 31, 1884.

JAMES BRADSHAW was the founder of the family in this county. He was a native of Derbyshire, England. Born September 25, 1743. Emigrated to America in 1775 with his wife, Elizabeth Bullock, who was born in the same county August 23, 1743. They first located in Cherry Valley, Otsego County, N. Y., and in 1777 removed to Princetown, at what was known as Curry's Bush, and located five hundred acres of land, a part of which was in Princetown and a part in Duanesburgh. He erected a large stone house about half a mile west of the present house of Walter Bradshaw, of Princetown. Of their ten children, three were born in England: John, June 14, 1769; Helen, February 12, 1771, who married Thomas Wasson and located in Princetown; Elizabeth, January 6, 1773, married John Barlow and located in Montgomery County. James was born on the voyage to America, March 17, 1775. George was the fifth of the family, born in Princetown, November 10, 1776; Thomas, September 28, 1778; Robert, July 11, 1780; Benjamin, March 11, 1782; Mary, March 19, 1784, married Charles Tullock, of Duanesburgh; Joseph, November 18, 1786. James, the fourth of this generation, married Delana Briggs, born in Rhode Island, June 20, 1776. They had nine children: Charlotte, born March 12, 1804, and married Henry Pulver; Samuel, born October 8, 1805; George, September 3, 1807; Martha M., December 31, 1809, married John M. Quick, of Rotterdam; Ruth, February 27, 1812, and married James Mulach and located in Jackson County, Mich.; Walter B., August 20, 1814, and died at twelve years of age; Ann, born March 17, 1817, mar-

ried Samuel Wingate and located in Duanesburgh; James W., July 22, 1820; Helen, October 22, 1822, and died at seven years of age. The venerable Samuel Bradshaw, formerly of Princetown, now living in Schoharie County, is in his seventy-ninth year; Mrs. Ann Wingate, of New York City; and Mrs. Elizabeth Mallench, are the only ones of this generation now living. Samuel B. Bradshaw married Sarah Kelley and they had three children, the first of whom died in infancy. Walter B. was the second, born January 8, 1837; he has been twice married, first to Maria, daughter of James Allen, of Rotterdam, March 5, 1857; she died December 17, 1857, leaving a son and daughter: Allen and Maria (twins); the latter died when two years old. In 1863, Allen married Miss Hannah F., daughter of James B. Bradshaw, who was born August 25, 1842, by whom he has one daughter, Lorena. Allen, his oldest son, married Emma, daughter of Benjamin Wiltsie, June 26, 1879; their children are Edith, Walter B. and Clarence W. Solomon K. Bradshaw married Maria, daughter of James B. Bradshaw, and has one son, Samuel, who lives in the house of his birth in Rotterdam.

We take pleasure in making mention of the following well-known citizens, who by their guaranteed support have helped to insure the publication of this valuable work:

Walter Bradshaw, A. B. Cullings, Wm. Donnan, Samuel Donnan, Alex. Donnan, Daniel Darrow, David Elder, Duncan Ferguson, George J. Holton, Andrew Kelly, John Marlette, Charles Ostrander, J. K. Rhinehart, Romaine Robinson, Andrew Smeallie, Joseph Tinning, David Taws.

HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROTTERDAM.

By Rev. E. E. TAYLOR.

ROTTERDAM was formed from Schenectady, April 14, 1820, and was formerly the third ward. Another part of the city was annexed in 1853, and a part taken from the town and added to the city in 1865. The town contains 24,422½ acres. Population in 1880, 2,326. It lies near the center of the county, upon the south bank of the Mohawk. The surface consists of a broken, hilly region in the northwest, a level interval extending from the center towards the south, and a high plain in the east. A part of the soil upon the west hills is a tough clay, underlaid by shale, which frequently crops out. The central valley or plain, five miles in extent, was called by the Dutch the "Bouwlands," or farm-lands. The soil is a deep alluvial. The east plateau is sandy and has formerly been regarded as barren, but of late years has shown its adaptation for orchards and especially for small fruits.

Among the early settlers were Wilhelmus Van Otto, — Van Curazoa (a native of the Island of Curacao), Ryer Schermerhorn and Simon Veeder. The house of Van Otto stood on the site of the one afterward occupied by Simon Veeder. At the time of the revolution there were families living by the names of Delamont, Van Pelton, and Braugham.

SOME OF THE OLD LANDMARKS.

Arent Bradt, born 1684, built the ancient brick house now standing southwest of the first lock above the city, about 1730. Arent was a full cousin of Captain Arent Andreas Bradt. He married Catrina, daughter of Jan Pieterse Mabee; she died in 1773, aged eighty-two years two months and seventeen days.

The Van Guysling farm, situated on the bouwlands in Rotterdam, and occupied by the Van

Guyslings as early as 1664, remained in that family until 1865, when Cornelius Van Guysling died without issue. The Van Guysling house is a wooden structure and is a remarkable specimen of early Dutch architecture. It is the oldest house in the valley, unless the Mabee House out-dates it.

A part of one of the buildings at the Schermerhorn Mills, near Schenectady, dates about 1715 to 1720.

The Mabee House. [A description and cut of this ancient building is given in a previous chapter.]

Johannes Peek's house, built in 1711, and now occupied by D. D. Schermerhorn, is situated a little south of the junction of the Boston and Hoosac Tunnel and West Shore Railroad.

Harman Albertse Vedder is the ancestor of all the Vedders in this county. He settled in Schenectady in 1663. His farm covered what is now known as the homestead of Col. D. D. Campbell.

ROTTERDAM FLATS.

In the summer of 1661, Arent Van Curler, or Corlear, leader of the first settlement, made formal application to Governor Stuyvesant for permission to settle upon the Great Flats lying west of Schenectady.

The bouwlands, the great tract of bottom land west of Schenectady, embracing several hundred acres of arable land, was anciently called the Groote Vlachte. It was mainly cleared land when the white man first occupied it in 1662, and had been the Mohawk's maize land for, perhaps, centuries. This, and other parcels of like soil along the Mohawk, formed the main inducement for the Hollanders to settle here; in them they recognized the *polders*, or lowland of the Fatherland.

The bouwlands were originally divided into twenty-three separate parcels and assigned to fifteen individuals.

Broom corn was first introduced into this town by the Shakers of Watervliet and Niskayuna, and has been extensively cultivated upon the alluvial flats and is still one of the most extensive products of the soil.

Mr. Martin De Forrest, of Schenectady, now seventy-two years old, says he well remembers that, sixty years ago, the first piece of broom corn planted in Rotterdam was on a morgen of land, or 2.0076 acres, near the city of Schenectady, by the Shakers from Watervliet. It attracted much attention and its peculiar adaptation to this alluvial soil soon brought it into general cultivation. Mr. Sanders Van Eps, then an extensive farmer in Rotterdam, was one of the first to raise it in large quantities and to manufacture it into brooms.

REMARKABLE FEAT.

It is said that Ryer Schermerhorn, the father of Bartholomew and grandson of the first Ryer, was a man of remarkable perseverance, energy and determination. An illustration cannot be out of place at this point. It is handed down by well

established authority, that shortly after the termination of the revolutionary war, when the long contested suit of Ryer Schermerhorn against the Trustees of the Schenectady Patent was pending in our Supreme Court, Ryer Schermerhorn, the plaintiff, was unexpectedly informed, by his counsel, Judge James Duane, that certain documents then in the hands of one Apple, at New York, must be in court at Albany within eight days from that time, or his cause would be greatly endangered. Bear in mind there were no telegraphs, no steamboats, no stage routes; but miserable roads, only a weekly mail, and that the sloops took generally two weeks, sometimes three, to accomplish the distance between Albany and New York. Nothing daunted, Schermerhorn started, single-handed, in a canoe from Albany; went to New York, procured the necessary documents, and on the morning of the first session of court, much to the surprise and gratification of his counsel, delivered him the desired papers. This certainly would be called something of a feat for a young man of the present day.*

THE ERIE CANAL.

The Erie Canal by three locks runs eight miles through this town along the line of the Mohawk.

The Erie Canal was first completed as far as Lockport, twenty-six miles from Lake Erie, and soon after to Lake Erie. Mr. Peter Christler (an ex-Canal Collector) in the *Schenectady Union*, January 18, 1885, gives the following table as to the development of the canal:

YEARS.	DEPTH OF WATER.	BOAT TONNAGE.
1824.	2 ft. 6 in. to 3 ft.	16 to 40
1836.	3 ft. to 3 ft. 6 in.	30 " 40
1846.	5 ft.	40 " 70
1856.	6 ft.	60 " 120
1862.	6 ft. to 9 ft.	150 " 220
1883.	7 ft.	250

Time from Buffalo to Albany has with little variation averaged about eight days. Average cargo at the present time is 160 tons.

In 1884 there was carried over the canal 5,666,057 tons. It was through this avenue, when other ways were closed during the late war, that the Government conveyed to the Western army a great amount of their supplies in addition to what the railroads could do, and in this service the canal was taxed to its utmost capacity. It is estimated that at this time there were from 8,000 to 10,000 boats on the canal.

RAILROADS.

The New York Central, with a four-track road, runs about four miles in this town, coming in at the east and going out at the City of Schenectady, where it crosses over into Glenville and follows the Mohawk westerly.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal Branch Railroad, from Schenectady to Quaker Street, with a single track, runs seven miles in the town.

The West Shore, with two tracks, runs twelve miles in the town and was built in 1883.

* Sanders' "Early History of Schenectady."

The Athens branch, from Schenectady to Athens, built in 1868, was sold to the West Shore.

The Creeks of this town are the Zantzee, Plata, Poentics and the Normanskill.

The Mohawk River runs along the northern boundary for ten miles. About one mile above the city is what has from the first been known as the Sixth Flat's rift.

The Schermerhorn Flouring Mill is situated near the city on the Plank road. This mill seat has been occupied here for more than a century and a half. Garret Veeder, second son of Simon Val-kertse Veeder, the fourth named original proprietor of Schenectady, owned the lands about the mill seat, and obtained a lease from the church of Schenectady of this mill privilege about 1718, which afterward became the Schermerhorn Mill Farm. This mill is one of the best in the county, and is highly prized by the town of Rotterdam.

Ryer Schermerhorn, during the revolution, built the stone house opposite the grist-mill about 1770, and the purpose was entertained at one time of taking it for a fort.

There was a log house near the mill that was used for a place of retreat in times of peril, and the name of "Schuylenburgh" was given to the place, it signifying in Dutch the shelter or a place of safety.

SOUTH SCHENECTADY.

South Schenectady came into being by the building of the West Shore Railroad in 1883, which connected with and crossed the Delaware and Hudson River Railroad two miles southwest of Schenectady. South Schenectady has now a large hotel called the Thompson House, built and kept by William H. Fogerty. Its capacity for boarders is quite large and it is well filled. The West Shore Railroad has here a large round-house, freight-house and depot. There are within half a mile twenty dwellings; a grocery; a store and post-office, kept by Andrew Kelley & Son; a blacksmith shop; the butcher's shop of Allen Estes; H. Herrick's watch-making and repairing shop; a large hay barn for storage of hay in transit, located beside the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, owned by Smith Close & Alfred Ford, who also have in connection with their business a coal yard. James Turnbull is also erecting a hay barn, and has also opened a coal yard near the track of the West Shore Railroad.

Religious services were commenced in this place in the summer of 1884 by Rev. E. E. Taylor, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who during that season preached in the open air, the congregation being gathered on the steps of the freight-house of the West Shore Railroad, and later in the fall Mr. Fogerty, of the Thompson House, built a hall in connection with the hotel, and at once tendered it to Mr. Taylor, and meetings have been held there for a time.

The Delaware and Hudson Railroad have a large reservoir here for watering their engines.

This place had a great opportunity in 1884, in the offer by the West Shore Railroad to locate their machine shops here, and the building of the round-house was its commencement, but the exorbitant price demanded, and a liberal offer about the time from Frankfort, led them to locate there, where they now employ several hundred men, and a large business is there being built up.

PATTERSONVILLE.

Pattersonville is a small village at Hoffman's Ferry, at the west end of the county, containing fifteen dwellings, a hotel called the Pattersonville Hotel, two stores, a wagon shop, blacksmith shop and shoe shop, a railroad depot and store-house.

The Pattersonville Hotel, kept by W. H. Patterson, is large and new, with ample accommodations. W. H. Patterson is the proprietor of the store at the west end of the village, near the depot; and T. L. Marlette & J. M. Clement are the proprietors of the store at the Ferry. In connection with their store they have a large hay barn, and buy and export hay. They also have a coal yard, and are doing a thriving business. Dr. Alexander Ennis lives here, and is a practicing physician and surgeon. The West Shore Railroad have erected a fine depot and freight-house for themselves and the Boston and Hoosac Tunnel Railroad, which runs upon their track at this point. More than one-half of this place has been built up since these railroads reached here. The new buildings are of a fine order, and the place bids fair for a more rapid growth.

The Junction is two miles east of Pattersonville, and is formed by the Boston and Hoosac Tunnel and West Shore Railroads. The Boston and Hoosac Tunnel crosses over the Mohawk from the town of Glenville at this point into Rotterdam, and unites with the West Shore. The West Shore Railroad have built here a large round-house, a railroad station, and offices for the joint delivery and exchange of freight. These buildings are used in common by both roads, the Boston and Hoosac paying rent for the use of the same.

Duck & Fish, of Decatur, Illinois, have just built extensive stock yards and barns here. The capacity of the present yards is eight hundred cattle; these will no doubt be enlarged, and the business become one of great importance.

The Mabee House is a fine new hotel, large and commodious for boarding purposes, etc., and a number of other fine buildings have been erected, and others will soon be built. Thus by the introduction of the railroads into this town, South Schenectady, the Junction and Pattersonville have sprung into being.

MOHAWKVILLE.

Mohawkville commences from the terminus of Centre street, Schenectady, and extends along the highway about a mile into Rotterdam. There are fifty-four dwellings, a grocery store, a school-house and a Good Templars' building. At the top of

the hill, rising from the city, is what has been long known as Engine Hill. It was here that a stationary engine was placed in 1831, when the first railroad of this part of the country was built from Albany to Schenectady, and this engine drew the railroad cars, with ropes, from Schenectady up the hill, as it was too steep for the engine of the train to draw them; on this account it was called Engine Hill. At the south end of Mohawkville was located Crane's factories, and therefore that was called Cranesville. The Good Templars' building, for lodge purposes, is a neat structure, erected last year at a cost of about \$1,500. It owes its existence mainly to the influence and means of Mrs. John H. Chambers, who has taken an unusually active part in organizing and maintaining a temperance society in this place, the effect of which is there is not a drop of spirituous liquor sold in the place or near it.

JONATHAN CRANE, of whom honorable mention should be made, was born February 5, 1790, in North Mansfield, Conn., and in 1814 came to Schenectady. In 1819 he purchased lands in Mohawkville, where he erected factories that to this day constitute the chief industry of the place. In connection with his factories an oil mill was erected, and its first superintendent was Mr. Dillon, and after him Peter Christler, now of Schenectady. A brake factory was also established, and a screw factory. Mr. Crane was the chief leader in transferring the screw manufacturing from England to this country. The main factory was afterward turned into a flax and corn-husk factory, and then again into a twine factory, which has continued for the past thirty years to the present. The factory was thoroughly repaired in 1882 by a company known as The Mohawk Twine Company, and business was pushed to the utmost capacity until the latter part of 1884, when, on account of the depression in the market, work was suspended. There were thirty-five hands employed. The present prospects indicate an early resumption of business. Mr. Crane was a man of marked fidelity, and of decided moral principles. He was a prominent temperance leader, and with others organized the first temperance society in Schenectady. He readily engaged in every good work. He formed the first Sunday-school in the county in his own house in Schenectady. He was emphatically a good man, both as a citizen and a Christian, and did much to advance the interests of mankind.

In the year 1830 the first passenger railway in this country was building from Albany to Schenectady. Mr. Crane's home was near his mills, and these were in the suburbs of the city, where the railway was to pass, so that he frequently saw the men at work. The slow, difficult process of excavating the sand was noticed by him, and his active mind immediately began seeking for a remedy. At last it was found in an invention which was named the circular receiver. Its patent is dated October 1, 1830, and is signed by the distinguished names of Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, and J. W. McPherson Berrian. The

principle of this machine is simple, and can be seen to-day, somewhat modified, in the ordinary turn-table used by all railroads.

The rapid increase in the number of railways created a demand for this invention, and presented a broad field for contractors. To put his invention into practice, Mr. Crane took a contract on the Albany road, and when this was finished he went to New England and assisted in the construction of many railways there, including the Hartford and New Haven, the Providence and Stonington, the Boston and Providence, the Boston and Albany and the Boston and Maine Railways.

JOHN R. FREEMAN & BROTHERS' oil mill is about two miles from Schenectady, a little west from the Duaneburgh road. Previous to 1855 the place was occupied by Mr. Peek as a cloth factory. In 1855, Freeman & Bro. started an oil mill which ran until 1871, when it was converted into a flax and husk mill. The goods made are better known as green tow. The mill continues the same to the present time. Like most other industries at this present time, work is suspended to a great extent. The Freeman Bros. have a paint, etc., store on Wall street, in Schenectady. They are among the most respected of our citizens.

THE McQUEEN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS are located on the Mohawk Flats, between the Jones Car Works and the Westinghouse Agricultural Works, near the City of Schenectady, on nine acres of land costing \$5,000, with a branch railroad track to the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. These works consist of two immense brick structures, one 125 feet x 306 feet, the other 74 feet x 402 feet, and an annexed engine-house 30 x 50 feet, erected at a cost of \$60,000. It is a stock company, capital \$300,000, 28 per cent of which has been assessed. Over half the stock is held by New York parties. The principal stockholders of this company are Walter McQueen, Charles Stanford, N. I. Schermerhorn, and George G. Maxon. President, Charles Stanford. Office is at 190 State street, Schenectady. Secretary, John De Remer; Treasurer, F. W. Jessop. Trustees: George G. Maxon, Walter M. McQueen, John McEncroe, Charles Stanford, N. I. Schermerhorn, T. W. Jessop, and John D. Remer.

There is no machinery yet in the buildings, and the directors are waiting for sufficient encouragement in business demand, above the pressure of the present times, to expand and put in operation these works.

SCHENECTADY CAR COMPANY.

This company was organized in 1872, with a stock capital of \$400,000. The company purchased the farm of N. I. Schermerhorn for \$50,000, and erected buildings and purchased material at a cost of \$84,000. The buildings after erection stood idle about four years, and then work was commenced and carried on for about four months. In 1875 J. M. Jones and Co. purchased the works—including twelve acres of land, buildings, machinery and stock, valued at \$90,000—for \$25,000. They at once resumed work making street cars,



with a force of 400 men up to about three years ago, when the street car work was transferred to the company's works at Troy, and the company reorganized under the incorporated title of The Jones Car Manufacturing Company, and commenced building railroad and Wagner palace cars. They put up five additional new buildings. The works went into the hands of a receiver, Mr. E. Nott Schermerhorn, in the spring of 1884, and work was continued for the completion of orders on hand until the fall. An offer of sale by the receiver and creditors was made for \$85,000, for buildings, machinery and stock.

These works are situated on the Mohawk Flats, about half a mile from the City of Schenectady. They have a branch track, connecting with the Delaware and Hudson Railroad near by.

January 30, 1885, these works were leased to Mr. Walter A. Jones, the legalized agent of the Jones Car Manufacturing Company, for eighteen months, with the privilege of purchase, within that time, for \$60,000. Work was at once resumed in the repairing and manufacture of Wagner's palace and sleeping cars for the New York Central Sleeping Car Company.

February 4, 1885, the Jones Car Works Company was reorganized and incorporated with a capital of \$50,000; Walter A. Jones, President. In June following, the New York Central Sleeping Car Company purchased the lease of the Jones Company, and at the present time manage the works, under the direction of Dr. W. Seward Webb, President, and T. H. Munsell, Superintendent.

SECOND REFORMED CHURCH OF ROTTERDAM.

This church was organized by the Classis in 1813. The first book of records cannot at present be found. March 15, 1824, the church was incorporated under the State laws, the consistory acting as trustees. A meeting of church members, preliminary to incorporation, was held January 12th and March 15th, the consistory including the Minister, Rev. Jeremiah Searle; Elders Lawrence Schermerhorn, Peter Becker and Oliver Springer; Deacons John J. Vischer, Philip De Forest and John Putnam. These went before Judge Henry Yates, of Schenectady, and procured the necessary papers, properly signed and attested, and the church was duly incorporated. The articles of incorporation are recorded in the County Clerk's office in Church Book of Records, page 25.

Fifteen years after the organization, in 1828, there were seventy-four members in full communion, and residing within the bounds of the congregation. May 21, 1843, it is noted that one hundred and twenty-five partook of the communion, which probably approximated the membership of the church at that time. After this date no account is given of the church membership until 1875, when there were fifty-two in communion and one hundred families in the congregation. April, 1884, there were seventy-seven in communion and fifty families in the congregation. The church had one remarkable revival in May, 1832, when fifty members were added to the church—forty-eight on confession of faith and two by certificate; Rev. Joshua Boyd, pastor.

The church was incorporated under the title of The Second Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the Third Ward of the City of Schenectady. It is now known as The Second Reformed Church, Rotterdam. (Rotterdam was the Third Ward of Schenectady until 1820.) From 1823 to 1836, this church and the First Reformed Church of Rotterdam were united and placed under the same pastorate. Rev. Jeremiah Searle, a licentiate, was called to the pastorate April, 1823, and continued until 1827. After an interval of several months, the two churches united in calling Rev. Joshua Boyd. He began his labors February, 1828, and continued joint pastor until May, 1836, when the relation of the two churches was dissolved by the Classis. This second church immediately called Rev. J. Boyd, who continued his labor from May, 1836, to May, 1840. From June, 1840, to May, 1841, the Rev. John Nott was stated supply, and in May, 1841, he was called to the pastorate of the church, and continued to serve as such until May, 1854. The succeeding two years and a quarter the church was without a pastor, depending upon such supplies as it could obtain, and was at the same time rebuilding its church edifice. August, 1856, Rev. Cyril Spaulding was called to its pastorate, and continued therein until October, 1860. Shortly after the dismissal of Rev. Cyril Spaulding, Rev. R. L. Schoonmaker began preaching there, and was finally employed as stated supply for one year, beginning March 1, 1861, but before the year closed he was called to its pastorate. He began his pastoral labors September, 1861, and continued therein until January, 1869. The church, after he left, made two ineffectual calls: one upon Rev. D. Vermilye, March, 1869, and the other on Rev. S.

F. Searle, May, 1869, and afterward succeeded in getting Rev. William P. Davis, who began his labors 1869, and ended them June, 1873. The next three years the church was without a pastor. August, 1873, an unsuccessful call was made upon Rev. W. P. Davis. During the year April, 1874, to 1875, a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Rev. M. J. Slover, acted as stated supply. This pulpit was also supplied by different preachers from Sabbath to Sabbath until May, 1876, when Rev. Ira Van Allen began his pastoral labors; his pastorate continued until May, 1883, when Rev. Lauren Vanderveer was called to the pastorate, and still continues its earnest and successful pastor; thus from 1823 to the present—sixty-three years—the church has had eight pastors, besides supplies.

CONSISTORY.—By charter the consistory was composed of seven members: the minister, three elders and three deacons. This continued from 1824 to 1837. In 1837, by act of Legislature the charter was amended, and the consistory enlarged to its present size of nine members: the minister, four elders and four deacons. In 1842, when Rev. John Nott was pastor, two additional elders were chosen contrary to the charter, and in 1883 two additional deacons were chosen. This large and illegal consistory of thirteen members continued only two years. In 1845 they returned to the charter number, and it has not been deviated from since.

CHURCH PROPERTY.—November 27, 1820, the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Schenectady conveyed to the minister, elders and deacons of the Second Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, etc., for the consideration of one dollar to them paid, one acre two roods and five perches of land situated south of the Princetown road and the road now leading to South Schenectady, being the land on which the church and sheds stand, and including what is now known as the Old Cemetery.

March 31, 1857, John Schermerhorn and Rebecca, his wife, for the consideration of two hundred dollars, conveyed to the church officers two acres of ground situated north of Princetown road, on which the parsonage and barn now stands, known as the parsonage lot.

April 2, 1880, John Phillips, for the consideration of six hundred and eleven dollars, conveyed to the church officers $6\frac{11}{100}$ acres of land adjoining the old cemetery on the southeast, now known as the New Cemetery.

February 5, 1881, the church officers secured from the trustees of the town of Rotterdam for one dollar, a commutation release of the rental of, and the virtual title to, thirty-seven rods of land lying northeast of the old cemetery and south of the public road.

The church now owns the cemetery plot of land, containing about $7\frac{3}{4}$ acres; and the parsonage lot, containing two acres.

During 1822 the first church edifice was built. It was a wooden structure 38×32 feet, with a pro-

jection eight feet deep in front, on which a steeple was constructed. It fronted nearly northeast. It was a plain structure. The pulpit was high and boxed, and the center of the church had high box-pews. A gallery twelve feet wide ran along the sides. The cost of this edifice was \$1,200.

In 1855 the church edifice was remodeled. The steeple had been blown off in a storm, and it became necessary to make thorough repairs. The building was enlarged to 46×32 feet, and in 1861 a bell costing \$125 was placed in the belfry. The total cost was about \$2,200.

In 1870 the church was again remodeled by an addition of eighteen feet, making the building now 64×32 feet, with an alcove for the pulpit, and the whole neatly finished at a cost of about \$2,000. The seating capacity is 300. There are also a fine lot of sheds 175 feet long, containing twenty-two stalls, costing, in addition to much work being done free, \$400.

PARSONAGE.—The parsonage was built in 1857, a two story and a half frame building, at a cost of \$1,643.72, and a two-story barn. The total expenses, \$2,432.72. Total value of the entire church property is about \$7,000.

ENDOWMENT.—The city of Schenectady sold certain lands, the proceeds from which were devoted to the support of the Gospel in the local churches. This church received its share, \$3,806.54, February 5, 1820, which it solemnly covenanted to keep unimpaired and for the sole purpose of the support of the Gospel. Of this sum \$1,000 is now out at interest at six per cent. About \$2,500 was used in building and completing the parsonage, and the balance has been lost.

August 7, 1883, Dr. Andrew Truax, druggist, of Schenectady, presented the church with \$5,000; the income to be used for the support of the ministry. This is now in a mortgage bearing interest at five per cent.

SABBATH-SCHOOL.—The Sunday-school was first commenced under the pastorate of Rev. Joshua Boyd. Since 1870 it has been especially prosperous. Its report for 1884 was six officers, six teachers, seventy-eight adult scholars, and thirty-two primary; total, one hundred and eight. Average attendance, sixty-four. Superintendent, John K. Tullock; Assistant, John C. Perry; Secretary, Miss Minnie V. Schermerhorn; Treasurer, Miss Mary E. Robinson; Librarian, Mr. John Schermerhorn; Assistant, Mr. William Marlette.

PRESENT OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.—Rev. Lauren Vanderveer, Pastor; Robert Schermerhorn, John C. Perry, Simon J. Schermerhorn, and Peter W. Ham, Elders; J. Frank Sager, John Van Epps, Albert Miller, and Abram P. Van Dyke, Deacons.

THE FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF ROTTERDAM.

This was organized in 1784 by the Classis of Albany under the title of Second Reformed Dutch in the Patent of Schenectady, with John Wemple, Martin Van Slyck, Harmanus Vedder, and Christopher Peek as the Elders.

It is impossible now to tell just who or how many the first original members were, or how many were received into the communion of the church during the period before the first pastorate. Several names of families, however, who were then prominent in the church are still represented in it. Such are the Wemples, Vedders, Peeks, Van Slyks, Bradts, and Veeders.

Tradition says that the first place where worship was held was in the upper part of an old frame building, the basement of which was used as a parsonage, or as a residence for the sexton when not occupied by the pastor. It was situated on the north side of the Mohawk River, a short distance back of the hotel at Hoffman's Ferry, on the road leading to Glenville. The room was unfurnished, without walls or pews, rough boards or benches being placed around the sides of the building. In this room services were held probably every three or four weeks, as the same ministry supplied Minaville and a church in the town of Duanesburgh.

After some years this building was sold and removed to a farm now owned by Latin Johnson. After standing there for a short time it was taken down and some of the timbers are now in a shed belonging to Aaron B. Bradt, one of the Elders of the church at the present time, near Hoffman's Ferry.

The congregation began at once to build the present church edifice, which is a plain wooden structure with a tower, and located on the south side of the Mohawk, about a mile east of where the old building stood, on a fine lot donated by the Veeder family, some of whose descendants are still members of the congregation. The church was not, however, finished until about the middle of 1823, when a committee was appointed, consisting of Nicholas A. Bradt, Gavet Quackenbush, Aaron Spitzer, and John W. Peek, to solicit funds to complete it. During seven years the congregation worshipped in it in this unfinished condition. Like the former, this building had neither walls nor pews, and was supplied only with benches brought from the old place of worship.

During 1845 this building underwent quite extensive repairs. The galleries were lowered, the pulpit changed from the rear of the church to the front, the upper and lower windows being united and the building new roofed, and painted inside and out. And again in 1856, and also in 1864, some slight changes and improvements were made.

The first settled pastor of whom there is any record, was the Rev. Thomas Romeyn. He was pastor of the church, in connection with that of Minaville and Duanesburgh, from 1800, to January 1, 1806, when the pastoral relation was dissolved, and he took charge of the churches of Niskayuna and Amity, where he labored until 1827. After leaving Niskayuna and Amity he retired to his farm in Glenville, where he lived until his decease, 1857.

After the removal of Mr. Romeyn in 1806, the church was destitute of a settled pastor until 1818, when the Rev. Peter Van Zandt took charge as

pastor or supply in connection with the First Church of the Fourth Ward of the City of Schenectady, now the First Reformed Church of Glenville.

He continued his labors with this church until 1822, when he took charge of a mission at Oak-hill, Green County, N. Y. The records show five persons received into the communion of the church on the confession of their faith, and seventy-one infants were baptized during his ministry of five years. Up to 1823 the church had borne the title of the Second Reformed Dutch Church of Schenectady, when it was changed to that of the First Reformed Dutch Church of Rotterdam.

During the year 1823 the Second Reformed Church of Rotterdam was organized, when that, together with the First Church, united in calling the Rev. Jeremiah Searl, who had just been licensed by the Classis of Albany to preach the Gospel. He held the pastorate of the two churches from April 26, 1823, to February 1, 1827. From these churches he was called to the First Church, Coxsackie, and continued there until 1851, being almost a quarter of a century. After an interval of a few months the two churches united in calling the Rev. Joshua Boyd, who had graduated from Union College in 1814; studied theology with the Rev. John McDowell, of Elizabethtown, N. Y.; and was licensed by the Presbytery of New Jersey in 1826. After staying for a short time at Herkimer and Fallsburgh he was called to the pastorate of these churches, and continued with them until May 3, 1836, when the two consistories applied to the Classis of Schenectady for a dissolution between them, and immediately after this Mr. Boyd was recalled to the Second Church, where he continued to labor until 1840.

During the ministry of these devoted and faithful servants, for near half a century, there is no evidence of any marked revival of religion. There was, however, some ingathering under the labors of each. But the seed which they had sown was destined to spring up and yield a plentiful harvest during the period from 1837 to 1840, when the Rev. John Nott supplied the church, and eighty-two persons were received on confession of their faith. This was the most extensive revival of which there is any record in the history of this church. Now again the church was destitute of a pastor for about two years, but was supplied occasionally by Prof. Andrew Yates, of Union College, and a Rev. Mr. Callehan, of New York. On the last of October, 1842, the consistory resolved to employ the Rev. John Van Desolow, who continued to supply the church until 1844, when, in June of that year, Rev. Cornelius S. Mead, who had just graduated from the Auburn Theological Seminary, and was licensed by the Presbytery of Cayuga, was called to the pastorate of the church. He remained until December, 1849, when he received and accepted a call to the Reformed Church of Herkimer. In 1850 the Rev. Charles Jakes, of Stone-Arabia, was called, and on the 29th of October of that year was installed by a committee of the Classis of Schenectady. His pastorate continued until November 10, 1862, when the Master

called him to his rest and reward. Since May 1, 1863, Rev. J. C. Lowe has been the pastor of the church. This church has been organized for nearly, if not quite fully, a century, and has had during that period seven pastors, the longest being that of the present and three stated supplies. It is impossible to tell the number of persons who have been received into the communion of the church during its existence, owing to the imperfect records which have been kept. At no time during the history of the church has the membership been large. At the present time there are on the records one hundred and twenty-one. The oldest living members of the church at the present time are Jeremiah Schuyler, who is ninety years of age; Albert Vedder, who is eighty-five; and Mrs. Eliza Bradt and Mrs. Seeley Patterson, who are both over seventy.

While the Rev. John Nott was supplying the church in 1840, it is probable that the first Sabbath-school was organized, with John Marlette, a prominent and useful member of the church, as its superintendent. His successors were Alexander Dow, Winslow Steeling and John Wiltzie. The number of scholars in the school at the present time is about one hundred and thirty. The present church property, consisting of a comfortable church building, lot and parsonage, is worth about seven thousand dollars.

ROTTERDAM METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Rotterdam was organized in 1846 by Presiding Elder Lindsey, and consisted of sixty members. Rev. S. Coval and William R. Brown were the first pastors. A house of worship was erected about the same time. The church was rebuilt and enlarged in 1846 at a cost of about \$4,000. James Fisher, Sr., purchased the site for the church and burying ground of Daniel D. Campbell in 1844, and presented it to the society. Mr. Fisher came from England in 1818. He had a large and respectable family. He has now in the ministry one son-in-law, the Rev. William J. Sands, now stationed at Crescent, N. Y., and two grandsons, Rev. John C. Fisher and Rev. Martin L. Fisher. He was an honored citizen and an exemplary Christian. He died February 11, 1871, aged eighty-seven years four months and twenty-seven days, and is buried in the cemetery adjoining the church.

This society was up to 1867 connected with the church at Guilderland, and the Rev. E. E. Taylor served both churches, assisted by Rev. John N. Short. During this year, under the indefatigable

labors of Mr. Taylor, not only was this church rebuilt, but a new church was built at the State road at a cost of about \$4,000, known as the Parker Church, Mr. Charles Parker, of the Dey street eating-house, New York, having his residence near by, and contributing largely toward the enterprise. The church at Guilderland (near Sloan's Hotel) was also rebuilt and enlarged at a cost of near \$4,000, and a new church built, three miles east of Sloan's Hotel on the Plank road near McGowan's Hotel, at a cost of \$3,500; the result was the erection of two separate pastorates, Rotterdam and State road, three miles apart, both having sustained themselves uninterruptedly to this present time, and doing a good work in these communities. The Rotterdam Church is two and a half miles south of Schenectady.

The following are the names of the several pastors in the order they have served this church since 1867. 1867-8, Rev. Stephen Palmer; 1869-70, Rev. Damos Brough; 1871-72, Rev. Manly Witheral; 1873-4, Rev. P. F. Youlen; 1875-6, Rev. F. G. Rainy; 1877-79, Rev. P. P. Harrower; 1880, Rev. A. Lawrence; 1881-83, Rev. E. E. Taylor; and Rev. W. O. Tower, the present pastor, who is exerting himself in building for the society a beautiful parsonage on the corner near the church, which is nearly completed. There has always been connected with this church a Sunday-school. The present membership of the church is 130; Sunday-school scholars, 100.

Colonel DANIEL D. CAMPBELL occupies a fine residence in Rotterdam about two miles from Schenectady. Mrs. Campbell, widow of Judge Daniel Campbell, made her will May 27, 1811, leaving considerable sums to her various relatives, but made her great nephew, Daniel David Campbell Schermerhorn, her residuary devisee and legatee on condition of changing his name Schermerhorn to Campbell, which, after her decease, was accomplished by legislative enactment; and that great-nephew, with many virtues, now resides among us, known and respected as Colonel Daniel D. Campbell.

PLANK ROAD.

The only remains of once extensive plank roads in various parts of this county, is a short piece of about one mile, starting from the city of Schenectady, running south to part of the former plank road to Duaneburgh. This road is now owned by the widow Pearson, and a toll of two cents each way is charged for one horse, and proportionately for more.



Simon J. Schermerhorn

SIMON J. SCHERMERHORN was born in Rotterdam, N. Y., near the old Arant Bradt Place, September 26, 1827, and is the seventh, and his children the eighth, generation who have lived in the place he now occupies. His ancestor, Jacob Janse Schermerhorn, was one of the first settlers, who was born in 1662 in Waterland, Holland. He came to Beverwyck quite early in life, where he prospered as a brewer and trader. In 1648 he was arrested at Fort Orange, by order of Governor Stuyvesant, on a charge of selling arms and ammunition to the Indians. His books and papers were seized, and himself removed a prisoner to Fort Amsterdam, where he was sentenced to banishment for five years, with the confiscation of all his property. By the interference of some leading citizens the first part of his sentence was struck out, but his property was never recovered.

These severe proceedings against Schermerhorn formed subsequently a ground of complaint against Stuyvesant to the States General. Nothing daunted by his misfortunes he began anew, and before his death, in 1689, acquired a large property for

the times. He made his will May 20, 1688, and the year following died at Schenectady, where he had resided for some years.

The following is the pedigree to the present :

Ryer, son of Jacob Janse ; married Ariaantje, daughter of Arant Arentse Brodt, in July, 1676.

Jacobus, son of Ryer, born January 31, 1720; married Annatje P. Vrooman September 4, 1742. He died July 28, 1762; she died September 7, 1770. He was the great grand-father of S. J. Schermerhorn.

Annatje P. Vrooman was a daughter of Peter Vrooman, who was killed by the French and Indians at the Beukendaal massacre in the town of Glenville in 1690.

Johannes, son of Jacobus, married Catherine Bradt November 13, 1778, daughter of Jacobus Bradt, the owner and occupant of the old Bradt House. He died January 7, 1814, aged 48 years 11 months and 8 days.

Jacob I., son of Johannes and father of Simon J. Schermerhorn, married Maria Vedder. He died April 20, 1849 in his sixty-first year; she died

August 19, 1832, in her forty-fifth year, leaving six children, two boys and four girls: John J., Simon J., Catherine, Anna, Sarah, and Alida.

Simon J. Schermerhorn was married February 4, 1857, to Helen, daughter of Harmon Veeder, who died in Wostina, July 31, 1850, aged fifty-two years and six months. Mrs. Schermerhorn is deserving of special mention as an efficient worker in all the church interests coming within the range of her proper relations; and for her work's sake, and the spirit in which it is performed, is entitled to rank with "the honorable women." Their children are: Jacob Edwin, born October 12, 1858, and died January 12, 1861; Mary Veeder, born January 6, 1860; Sarah, born March 19, 1862; John, born July 12, 1863; Alice Augusta, born January 23, 1865; Andrew Truax, born December 7, 1866; Jacob L., born June 7, 1870, died July 29, 1870; Simon, born April 3, 1874.

The homestead originally purchased by Jacob Janse Schermerhorn has been occupied down to the present by his descendants for seven generations; and other lands of late have been purchased (about 50 acres) a part of which is from the Old Arent Bradt Estate, on which still stands, in an excellent state of preservation, the oldest building of the county, the Arent Bradt House, described in a separate paragraph in the history of this town.

The present farm is in a high state of cultivation. The barns and out-buildings are new, ample and well constructed. The dwelling, built in 1857, is of brick, of modern construction, and stands about 300 yards east of the Old Arent Bradt House, on a rise of ground near the bluff that rises about 100 feet above it to the Highlands rising toward the south. From the house is an excellent view of the Mohawk Valley and the country beyond, while itself stands also in full view of the City of Schenectady.

The family burying ground of four generations is about 200 yards east of the dwelling, but the fine cemetery adjoining the second Reformed Church of Rotterdam is now generally used.

Mr. Schermerhorn has held several important positions in the gift of the people. He was a war Democrat of persistent loyalty. He was elected unanimously a member of the State Assembly, 1862, and evinced a commendable zeal for the welfare of his country in that eventful time. He has been a member of the Board of Supervisors for three terms, and has served one term as School Commissioner.

So popular is Mr. Schermerhorn with his constituency, that he never had any opposition whenever he consented to be a candidate for office, and the people have sought and would have gladly given him many other positions of trust if he had consented, but his disinclination to office holding and love of home, has led him to decline many official honors. He has been an honored, and active and consistent member of the Second Reformed Church of Rotterdam for twenty-five years, and is one of its elders, a faithful Christian, and an upright and highly respected citizen.

SUMMER RESIDENCE OF DR. BACKUS.—Rev. J. Trumbull Backus, D. D., of 6 Union street, Schenectady, has a beautiful summer residence in Rotterdam, less than two miles southwest from the city. Its commanding position excites admiration. It stands upon the top of the bluff and near its edge, surrounded by a thin forest. The bluff rises about one hundred and fifty feet from the valley of the Mohawk, and is about half a mile from the river. It affords one of the finest natural prospects in the whole country. It has a fine view of the Mohawk Valley each way for several miles, and takes in the whole of the City of Schenectady. The view stretches out also across the river over Glenville and a part of Saratoga County; and, turning the gaze southward, the vision sweeps over the plains of Rotterdam and Guelderland beyond, and takes in the Grand Old Helderberghs and Catskill Mountains, while to the left loom up the Green Mountains of Vermont, and to the north a spur of the Adirondacks.

Dr. Backus was installed Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Schenectady December 6, 1832, and remained its popular and successful pastor until June 18, 1873; and now, like a shock of corn with golden hue, in the grand majesty of life's success, he waits "The Harvest Home."

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.—There are in the town of Rotterdam 14 school-houses, 14 districts, and as many teachers employed. The average cost of school-houses is \$600. There are annually taught 822 scholars (beside many who attend the schools in Schenectady, that have superior advantages). The average price paid to teachers is \$7.50 per week. C. W. Van Santvoord is School Commissioner.

TOWN OFFICERS.—Supervisor, John C. Myers; Justice of the Peace, Peter McGee; Assessor, Anthony Wallard; Collector, John J. Van Patten; Town Clerk, Willis Burdick; Coroner, Dr. Alex. Ennis, Pattersonville.

COUNTY OFFICERS.—(See Officers.)

THE BRADT FAMILY.

Nicholas A. Bradt was born in the old Arant Bradt House, near the first lock of the Erie Canal west of Schenectady, August 18, 1773, and died July 8, 1850. He married Margaret Mabee and they had two children: Abraham N., born August 16, 1793, who married Maria Vedder in 1819. They had six children: Margaret, Jemima, Nicholas, Simon, Sarah, and Harmanus.

Cornelius, the second son of Nicholas A., married Nancy Kerns in 1830, and they had six children: Margaret, Susan, Gazena, Nicholas, Rebecca, and Cornelius.

Nicholas, son of Abraham N., was born September 14, 1824, and married Hester Bradt in 1857, and lives on the old Woe-Stina Place, seven miles west of the City of Schenectady, near the round-house of the West Shore Railroad. Farm consists of one hundred and ten acres. He has seven children, named Maria, Helen, Abram, Frank, Maggie, Lizzie, and A. Vedder. Abram,

the last named son, owns the old family homestead of one hundred and fourteen acres, formerly owned by his great-great-grandfather, which adjoins that of his father's.

Francis Bradt was born in Niskayuna January 3, 1833, and was brought to Rotterdam by his parents and is a descendant of John A. Bradt, born March 9, 1770, and died July 14, 1846. He married Wilmot Mabce January 20, 1793, and she died in the eighty-seventh year of her age. They had six children: Cornelius, Abraham, Hester, Aaron, Sarah, Catherine and Frederick, the latter being the only one of the six now living. Aaron Bradt was born August 12, 1800, and died in the fifty-third year of his age. He married Eliza C. Vedder, February 15, 1832. Eliza C. Bradt is the sole survivor of a family of nine children and is in the seventy-ninth year of her age. Has had five children: Francis, Hester, Helen, John and Aaron.

Francis Bradt was born January 3, 1832. He married Maggie Veeder, November 18, 1874; had one child, Aaron J. Bradt, now in the seventh year of his age. Hester Bradt was born November 13, 1834, and married Nicholas Bradt November 28, 1857. Helen Bradt, born May 11, 1837, and died at the age of twenty-one years. John Bradt, born October 6, 1839, married M. Elenor Dorn December 28, 1871. Aaron B. Bradt, born May 24, 1841, married Catherine E. Gregg, 1867; had one child, Cora Bradt, now in the seventeenth year of her age.

Francis and John Bradt are now living on the farm purchased by their great-great-grandfather, Abraham Bradt, in 1765, of Peter Daniel Van Antwerp, containing about sixty acres, for \$2,500. A few years after the purchase, produce brought a high price, but had to be sent to New York for market. Wheat was from \$3 to \$4 per bushel; peas, \$2; etc.

The barn built by Abraham Bradt is still standing and in use, and stands as firm and solid as ever; the timbers and siding are of yellow pine, the shingles of white pine, three feet long and three-quarters of an inch thick and are still of good service; the nails were all made by hand, and are of wrought-iron. The barn is 40 x 60 and was built in 1775 and has cost the owners but a very small amount for repairs. The place is seven miles west of the City of Schenectady, in the Valley of the Mohawk.

THE DE FOREST FAMILY.

Jacob De Forest was born in Greenbush, Rensselaer County, N. Y., May 28, 1771, and died in Rotterdam, June, 1854.

He married Anna Lansing February 2, 1784, by whom he had five children: Cornelia, Jacob, Tennaeta, Sarah, and Obadiah L.

He came to Rotterdam in 1807 and soon after his wife died. He married for his second wife Mary Wiley, July 30, 1808, by whom he had four children: Anna, John, Martin, and James.

Jacob De Forest, Jr., was born October 23, 1777, and married Ann Schermerhorn. They had nine children, four daughters and five sons. These

five sons all enlisted in the Union army of the late civil war, and by their valor gained marked distinction. They are Colonel Jacob J. De Forest, now of Duaneburgh; S. De Forest, Quarter-master, now in Cleveland, Ohio; John De Forest, Lieutenant, deceased; William F. De Forest, now of San Francisco, Cal.; and Martin J. De Forest, now in the New York Post-office. He lost a leg in the war.

Martin De Forest, son of Jacob De Forest, of Rensselaer County, N. Y., whose residence is 31 Church street, Schenectady, is the agent of Hon. D. D. Campbell, of Rotterdam. His wife was Elizabeth M. Schermerhorn, daughter of Hon. Bartholomew Schermerhorn (deceased), late of the town of Rotterdam. They have had five children, two sons and three daughters. But two survive, viz., Mary, wife of Chas. N. Yates, and Catherine A., wife of Robert Moir, who is regarded by the community where he resides as a respectable and honorable business man.

Obadiah L. De Forest has been sheriff of Schenectady County, and his son Jacob has also held the same office. Another of his sons, Henry S., is at present Recorder of the City of Schenectady.

The De Forests are a highly respected family.

HALSTED CLOSE is a farmer and speculator known widely here and in the City of Schenectady. He was born in Clifton Park, Saratoga County. For five generations past the Close family have been prominent in the social and business interests of that town. Mr. Close was born in the year 1817. His father's name was Benjamin Close and his mother's maiden name was Sarah Morehouse. He came to Schenectady County in 1861, and engaged in mercantile pursuits. He established the present business of Stearns & Co., and sold to them in 1868. He opened the present business of Losee B. Close in State street—a flour and feed store, with a steam power for grinding. In this business he was financially successful. He married Phebe, daughter of Abram G. Losee, of Clifton Park. They have had four children: Mary E., deceased, who married Abram Vedder, of Glenville, and after her death Mr. Vedder married Mr. Close's second daughter, Samantha; Losee B. Close, grain merchant in State street; and Smith Close, Schenectady. Besides city property he owns farms in Rotterdam and in Saratoga County. Mr. Close's farm, where he lives, is in South Schenectady, and he is now taking an active part in developing a village at this point. He has founded a large hay barn beside the track of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad for buying and transportation, and he also has a coal-yard at the same place.

WILLIAM H. FOGERTY, of South Schenectady, is the proprietor of the Thompson House, a large and commodious hotel. He erected the Thompson House in the fall of 1883, and in the fall of 1884 added a hall for public purposes. It is used for religious services once in two weeks. Mr. Fogerty is a native of Montgomery County, born at Port Jackson, and is a son of James Fogerty,

deceased, and was for many years an employee of Colonel D. D. Campbell. He married Eliza, daughter of James Lockwood. His father, James Fogerty, married Maria, daughter of David J. Williams (deceased), of Montgomery County. He served in the war of 1812 under General Scott. He was at the battle of Plattsburgh in 1813. He was captured by the Indians and carried into Canada, but eventually returned. Mr. and Mrs. Fogerty have one daughter, Bessie.

ELIAS VAN WORMER, farmer, in the town of Rotterdam. He was born in the town of Guiderland, and is a son of Frederick Van Wormer and grandson of Abram Van Wormer. Frederick Van Wormer came to Rotterdam in the year 1828, and located on what is now the H. Veeder Farm. He brought with him four children: Harriet, Elias, Elizabeth and Abraham, who were born in Guiderland. Jacob, Frederick, Sarah J., Alexander and Mary were born in Rotterdam. He died in 1876. His wife's maiden name was Catharine Smith, of Rotterdam. She died in 1854.

JOHN M. VEEDER, near Pattersonville, is a farmer and fruit culturist. His farm of 150 acres adjoins the property of the First Reformed Church. The place was formerly owned by Mr. Veeder's father-in-law, Daniel Johnson, who for several years kept a hotel at this place. Mr. Veeder was four years Supervisor of his town. The West Shore Railroad and Erie Canal pass through his farm, which is bounded on the north by the Mohawk River. He is a descendant from the old Dutch families, as is indicated by his name.

JOHN M. QUICK was born in New Scotland, Albany County, November 20, 1809, and married March 24, 1836, to Martha M. Bradshaw, who was born in Duanesburgh December 29, 1809. He was a son of Gratus and Mary (McCoftry) Quick, natives of Rhinebeck, N. Y., who were of Scotch parents. He located and spent his life on the farm now owned and occupied by his son, George G., in Rotterdam, and died April 15, 1864. His wife died June 14, 1877. He had five children: George G., born December 25, 1843, who married Miss Sarah Thayer, of Seneca Falls, N. Y., June 7, 1848. They had three children: Martha M., Jennie M., and John C. Mary married E. Shufelt; Samuel W., born 1849, married Miss Hattie Darrow, born June 10, 1852, daughter of H. B. Darrow, who died in 1875. He owns and occupies the old Darrow homestead in Rotterdam. Has one son, Andrew, born July 20, 1878. John M. had three children, now deceased—William, Charlotte and James. Ruth married J. W. Clark, of Jackson County, Michigan.

SEBASTIAN PUTNAM is one of the thrifty farmers of Rotterdam, living on the road leading to Princetown, on the corner where the Fort Hunter road crosses, three miles from Schenectady. It is one of the situations ever admired by the passer-by. He is a son of John and Maggie (Vrooman) Putnam. John was born in the city of Schenectady August 31, 1780, and died May 1, 1881. His wife was born in Niskayuna March 17, 1787, and

died December, 1830. They had seven sons and three daughters, of whom Sebastian, Oliver and Clarissa are all who now survive. Sebastian Putnam married Margaret, daughter of David Waddell (deceased), of Duanesburgh, and they have five children living: Mary A.; Maggie A., now Mrs. Franklin Schermerhorn, of Rotterdam; Sarah A., who is Mrs. Schermerhorn; Philip; Fordelia F. Other children—Erastus, David and Mary—are deceased.

Mr. Putnam's grandparents, Aaron and Elizabeth (Spinster) Putnam, were among the first settlers of Rotterdam; and his grandfather Vrooman, of Niskayuna.

PROMINENT RESIDENTS.

Pattersonville and vicinity, whose post-office is Pattersonville:

Rev. J. C. Low, Dr. Alex. Ennis, physician and surgeon; Thomas L. Marlette, grocer, etc.; Jacob Swart, wagon-maker; Jonathan Staley, farmer; William Staley, farmer; J. W. Briggs, farmer and grocer; John M. Veeder, farmer and Supervisor; Simon Veeder, farmer; Oliver Putnam, farmer; Thomas H. Trumbell, farmer; Nicholas Brodt, farmer; Francis Brodt, farmer; John Brodt, farmer; D. Schermerhorn, farmer; Tilfair C. Rynex, farmer, Rynex Corners.

Post-office in Schenectady:

J. Crawford, hotel and grocer; H. M. Aken, farmer, Supervisor, Justice of the Peace twenty years, a School Commissioner six years, and Justice of Sessions two years; John J. A. Schermerhorn, farmer; Aaron Becker, farmer; John P. McCue, farmer; N. M. F. Clute, farmer; A. J. Gregg, farmer; Harmon Van Slyck, farmer; Jno. S. Van Slyck, farmer; William Swanker, farmer; Edward S. Santer, farmer; John V. Van Patten, farmer; N. H. Van Potten, farmer; S. J. Schermerhorn, farmer, has been School Commissioner and Member of Assembly; John J. Schermerhorn, farmer; J. S. Schermerhorn, farmer; Ebenezer Schermerhorn, farmer; Daniel D. C. Schermerhorn, farmer; John A. Van Epps, farmer; William Phillips, farmer; Robert Schermerhorn, farmer; J. L. Countermine, farmer; John Putnam, farmer; John D. Ladd, clerk; John Valkenburgh, farmer; Samuel A. Brodt, farmer, has been School Commissioner and Supervisor; William A. Wasson, farmer, has been Commissioner of Highways three years; William Osborne, hotel-keeper, five miles west of Schenectady; Adam Masser, hotel-keeper, two miles west of Schenectady; Hon. John D. Campbell, two miles west of the city; L. S. Hutchinson, hotel, two miles south of city; D. D. C. Van Patten, hotel, two and one-half miles south of city; George W. Sigsbee, hotel, three miles south of city; W. H. Fogerty, hotel, South Schenectady; Spencer Moore (G. Westonhouse & Co.), one and one-half miles south of city; Thomas Bullock, farmer, two miles south of city; William Chambers, commercial traveler, two miles south of city; Colonel D. D. Campbell, gentleman and landholder, two miles south of city; Henry M. Chrisler, two and one-half miles south of city;

Nicholas I. Clute, two miles south of city; James Countermin, two and one-half miles southwest of city; George Fisher, three miles south of city; James Fisher, three miles south of city; George S. Hunt, three and one-half miles south of city; Solomon R. Bradshaw, three and one-half miles southwest of city; William Phillips, three and one-half miles southwest of city; James A. Rynex, four miles west of city; William T. Radcliffe, one mile south of city; George B. White, four miles south of city; William Scrafford, two miles south of city; James Turnbull, four miles west of city; William Vandyke, three miles south of city; H. C. Weast, five miles southwest of city; S. W. Quick, farmer, Rynex Corners.

We take pleasure in making mention of the following well-known citizens, who by their guaranteed support have helped to insure the publication of this valuable work: Nicholas Bradt, Francis Bradt, Abraham Bradt, Walter Bradshaw, D. D. Campbell, J. L. Countermin, N. M. F. Clute, Win. H. Fogerty, Andrew Gregg, J. C. Low, John D. Ladd, T. L. Marlett, Sebastian Putman, W. H. Patterson, S. W. Quick, Telfair C. Rynex, Simon J. Schermerhorn, Daniel D. C. Schermerhorn, John J. A. Schermerhorn, John J. Schermerhorn, John S. Schermerhorn, Robert Schermerhorn, Edward S. Santer, Jonathan Staley, William Staley, J. S. & H. Van Slyck, John M. Veeder, John A. Van Epps, Elias Van Wormer.

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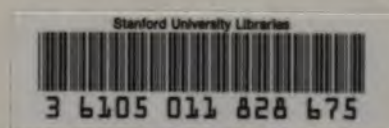
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